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FBIS-EAS-91-238 CONTENTS *11 December 1991*

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NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Lower House To Extend Diet Session by 11 Days *[KYODO]* ... 1
    Passes Draft Supplementary Budget *[KYODO]* ... 1
Foreign Minister Suggests 'Flexible' Rice Stance *[KYODO]* ... 1
565 Diet Members Sign Anti-Rice Import Petition *[KYODO]* ... 2
Miyazawa Denies Involvement in Kyowa Affair *[Tokyo TV]* ... 2
Automakers Urge To Stop Western Protectionism *[KYODO]* ... 2
SDF Multinational Forces Participation Shelved *[KYODO]* ... 3
Further on Visit by Thai Prime Minister Anan ... 3
    Miyazawa Presented 'White Paper' *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 10 Dec]* ... 3
    Discusses Joint Ventures, UNTAC *[KYODO]* ... 4
    Anan Rebuts Amnesty's Criticism *[KYODO]* ... 4
    Pledges Continued Free-Market Policies *[KYODO]* ... 5
Watanabe Pledges Support for Argentine Reforms *[KYODO]* ... 6
Latvian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit *[KYODO]* ... 6
Japanese Boat Begins Fishing in Soviet Waters *[KYODO]* ... 6
ROK Urges Sincere Actions on Compensation Suit *[KYODO]* ... 6
    Government To Consider 'Sufferings' *[KYODO]* ... 7
Bank Governor Foresees No Change in Policy *[KYODO]* ... 7
Official Projects $100 Billion Trade Surplus *[KYODO]* ... 8
Nov Trade Surplus Up 192 Percent on Year *[KYODO]* ... 8
Government Reports Health Ministry Most Wasteful *[KYODO]* ... 9
'Standards' Worked Out for Release of Information *[KYODO]* ... 10
Nuclear Plant Begins Uranium-Enriching Test *[KYODO]* ... 10

Mongolia

Mongolian Renewal Party Splits Ranks of MPRP *[Moscow TV]* ... 10
Peasants, Herdsmen Establish Political Party *[Beijing XINHUA]* ... 11

North Korea

Fifth Round High-Level N-S Talks Opens 11 Dec ... 11
    Commentator Views South Stand *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 11
    Keynote Speeches Reported *[KCNA]* ... 12
    Premier Urges Denuclearization *[KCNA]* ... 12
    Spokesman Gives News Briefing *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 13
South Accused of Seeking To Disrupt Talks *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 17
Japan Urged To Compensate for Past War Actions *[KCNA]* ... 17
Kim Il-song Gives On-the-Spot Guidance *[KCNA]* ... 18

South Korea

First Day of Fifth North-South Talks Reported ... 19
    Prime Minister Presents Proposal *[Seoul Radio]* ... 19
    Offers Inspection of U.S. Bases *[YONHAP]* ... 20
    'Texts' of Sides' Draft Declarations *[YONHAP]* ... 20
    All U.S. Nuclear Arms Said Removed *[YONHAP]* ... 21
    Spokesmen Brief Press on Talks *[YONHAP]* ... 22

Russian Parliament Head on Republic's Leadership *[YONHAP]* 22
Seoul Asks Burma To End Dissident's Detention *[YONHAP]* 22
* Conservatives Viewed as Mainstream of Power *[SISA JOURNAL 24 Oct]* 23
* Top 10 Political Figures Identified *[SISA JOURNAL 24 Oct]* 25
Non-Government Television Begins Broadcasting *[YONHAP]* 28

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Student Protests at Rangoon University Continue 30
  Troops Seal Off Campus *[AFP]* 30
  Exiled Student Leader Comments *[AFP]* 30
  Students Arrested; Situation 'Tense' *[AFP]* 31
  Authorities Suspend Classes *[AFP]* 31
Students, Monks Urge Changed Ruling Policy *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 11 Dec]* 32
Status of More NLD Representatives Revoked *[Rangoon Radio]* 32

Cambodia

Sihanouk's Visit to Kompong Cham Reported 33
  Sihanouk Gives Speech 8 Dec *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 33
  Future Power Sharing Discussed *[SPK]* 37
  'Tens of Thousands' Greet Sihanouk *[Radio VGNUFC]* 38
  Hun Neng Expresses 'Great Joy' *[SPK]* 38
  Sihanouk Speaks at Hospital *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 38
Son Sann Views Peace Agreement Implementation *[Radio VOK]* 39
FUNCINPEC Appeals for Support From Members *[Radio VOK]* 40

Indonesia

Dili Officer Did Not Violate Procedures *[AFP]* 41
Human Rights Groups Call for Liberalization *[AFP]* 41
Palapa Satellite To Compete With Thailandsat *[ANTARA]* 42

Philippines

U.S. Accepts Deadline for Bases Pullout Accord *[Manila Radio]* 42
  Defense Arrangements To Continue *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 11 Dec]* 42
Aquino, Teachers Dialogue Remains Deadlocked *[Manila Radio]* 43
Bicol Residents Want Longer Christmas Truce *[MALAYA 11 Dec]* 43
Military, Rebels Trade Human Rights Charges *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 11 Dec]* 44
17 CPP-NPA Supporters Return to Government *[Manila Radio]* 44
NPA Kills 3 in Battle With Military *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 11 Dec]* 44
NPA Rebels Scorn Prospects of Military Defeat *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 10 Dec]* 45
Talks With MNLF Rebels Focus on 'Internal' Issues *[Manila Radio]* 46
CHRONICLE Gives More Emphasis to Political Events *[11 Nov]* 46

Thailand

Suchinda Rejects Neutral Senate Nomination Plan *[THE NATION 11 Dec]* 46
Editorial Calls for Audit of Parties' Books *[THE NATION 11 Dec]* 47
Officials Preview Thai-U.S. Trade Talks *[THE NATION 11 Dec]* 48
Trade Board Views 'Massive' Indochina Investment *[THE NATION 11 Dec]* 49
Trade With Chile To Rise 'Significantly' *[THE NATION 11 Dec]* 49
Contract With Arianespace To Launch Satellite *[BANGKOK POST 11 Dec]* 50
Thai-Saudi Relations Viewed by Columnist *[KHAO PISET 11 Nov]* 50

Vietnam

Eighth National Assembly Session Begins Work 52
    Vo Van Kiet Gives Address *[Hanoi Radio]* 52
    Communique No. 1 Issued *[Hanoi Radio]* 54
    Communique No. 2 Issued *[Hanoi Radio]* 54
Vo Van Kiet Meets Returning Athletes 10 Dec *[VNA]* 55
Do Muoi's Second Plenum Address, Part 1 *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
83,000 People To Be Sent to U.S. in 1992 *[AFP]* 56
VNA Reports Export Success 57
Vice Minister of Aquatic Products Visits Germany *[VNA]* 57
Haiphong Official Delegation Visits Liuzhou City *[Hanoi Radio]* 57

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Hawke Admits To 'Toughest' Leadership Challege *[AFP]* 58
Government To Sign Oil Treaty With East Timor *[AFP]* 58

Fiji

Trade Unions File Writ To Challenge New Laws *[Melbourne International]* 59

Vanuatu

Former Prime Minister To Stay Outside Coalition *[AFP]* 59

Western Samoa

Cyclone Val Decimates Vegetation, Infrastructure *[AFP]* 60

Japan

Lower House To Extend Diet Session by 11 Days

OW1012163591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1501 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—The House of Representatives decided at a plenary session Tuesday night to extend the current Diet session by 11 days in order to adopt the supplementary budget plan for the current fiscal year.

The decision came shortly before the scheduled expiration of the 36-day extraordinary session, which was convened November 5.

The second-largest opposition party Komeito boycotted the Lower House plenum, protesting the earlier bilateral negotiation between the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and the largest opposition party, the Social Democratic Party [SDP], over the extension of the Diet session.

At a meeting between top leaders of the LDP and the SDP immediately before the Lower House plenum, the two parties agreed on the 11-day extension to allow time to adopt the government-proposed supplementary budget bill.

The two parties also agreed to spend three to four days of the extended session in discussing the United Nations peacekeeping cooperation bill, aimed at allowing Self-Defense Forces personnel to to be sent overseas to support United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Although the LDP has given up on passing the bill at the current Diet session, it hopes to keep it alive for future passage.

Regarding the issue of summoning Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's former Diet secretary to question him concerning Miyazawa's involvement in the so-called Recruit stock-for-favor scandal, the LDP and SDP leaders decided to leave the matter up to a consultative panel representing the five ruling and opposition parties.

The centrist Komeito, which has called for such summons at the current Diet session, was strongly opposed to the bilateral decision and did not attend the Lower House plenary session.

Passes Draft Supplementary Budget

OW1112115591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—The House of Representatives passed Wednesday the draft supplementary budget for this fiscal year, with the main opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) voting in favor for the first time since 1961.

The vote followed the passing of the draft by the lower house's budget committee the same day. The supplementary budget draft will now go on to the House of Councillors for approval.

Beside the SDP, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, the opposition Komeito, Democratic Socialist Party, and Shinminren supported the draft, while the Japanese Communist Party voted against.

The current Diet session has been extended by 11 days until December 21.

The upper house went into a discussion of the supplementary budget the same day following a speech to it by Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata. Its budget committee will deliberate on the draft starting Thursday.

On Wednesday, the lower house approved the revised 266 billion yen draft, as well as four bills including a draft revision of a law concerning tax grants to local governments.

In respect to the rice issue, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told the lower house's budget committee that the government is seeking ways to settle the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks with all parties compromising a little. His statement came in response to a call by an SDP member to resist opening up Japan's rice market.

Atsuo Kudo, director of the Cabinet Legislative Bureau, said that if the government chooses to open up the market it would not be illegal, although such a move would go against an earlier Diet resolution that called for Japan to be self-sufficient in rice production.

Foreign Minister Suggests 'Flexible' Rice Stance

OW1112052591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0513 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Wednesday suggested taking a flexible stance on demands from abroad that Japan open its closed rice market.

The issue is currently being discussed in the ongoing Uruguay Round of the multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Watanabe made his suggestion in response to a question by Tatsuo Shinmori, a Social Democratic Party member, at a House of Representatives Budget Committee session.

Watanabe told the committee that Japan is working to bring the GATT trade talks to a successful conclusion by drawing little concessions from each member country.

Watanabe also said all countries participating in the talks have agreed to successfully end the negotiations.

The foreign minister's remarks are seen as indicating Japan may take steps to meet foreign demands for partial liberalization of the Japanese rice market, or tariffication of the nations's rice import ban.

In the same session, Atsuo Kudo, director general of the Cabinet Legislative Bureau, said the government's decision would not be illegal. A current Diet resolution calls for the maintenance of a rice market that is closed to foreign producers.

In other Diet business, opposition parties called for Tsuneo Hattori, former secretary to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, to testify about the 1986 recruit stocks-for-favors scandal.

The prime minister showed reluctance to allow the testimony, saying he is responsible for answering any questions the opposition camp may have about his role in the scandal.

565 Diet Members Sign Anti-Rice Import Petition

OW1112115791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1139 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—The lobby group of a powerful agricultural cooperative organization said Wednesday 565 parliamentarians have signed a petition opposing the opening of Japan's rice market to imports.

The National Council of Farm Policy Representative Organizations (Noseikyo) said it will use the signatures to work on the government to maintain a ban on rice imports.

The council, lobby group of the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations (Nokyo), said all Diet members of the No. 2 opposition Komeito refused to sign.

Three influential members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) also refused, the council said. They were former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, and former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru.

The council said it had approached all 703 members of both houses of the Diet, except cabinet ministers, heads and deputy heads of both chambers, and the three executive officers of the LDP.

The council said 283 LDP members, including former Prime Ministers Toshiki Kaifu and Noboru Takeshita, supported the campaign.

Other supporters included 204 members of the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party, 29 Japanese Communist Party members and 22 Democratic Socialist Party legislators.

The list of signatures will be sent to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Masami Tanabu, minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and the three LDP executives after a national rally against liberalization of the rice market scheduled Thursday in Tokyo, the council said.

Miyazawa Denies Involvement in Kyowa Affair

OW1112062591 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At the lower house budget committee meeting today, Shozo Kusakawa asked a question about reports that Diet member Fumio Abe, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party's Miyazawa faction, received large amounts of political funds from steel frame maker Kyowa, which is being prosecuted by the Tokyo District Public Prosecutor's Office for bogus deals with the major trading firm Marubeni Corporation. Kusakawa asked whether some of this money went to Prime Minister Miyazawa's political groups, support organizations, and other voluntary organizations. Prime Minister Miyazawa stated that he does not know the Kyowa people and that he does not think any money went to his groups.

Automakers Urge To Stop Western Protectionism

OW1112040691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0322 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Japan's automakers asked the government Wednesday to do more to stop the resurging protectionist moves in Western governments stemming from their auto and other trade imbalances with Japan.

In a breakfast meeting with International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe, representatives from the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association urged the government to explain to the United States the current "poor" state of the Japanese auto market and their steady effort to boost imports of foreign automobiles and components.

Watanabe shared with them worries about their flagging profits but appeared less sympathetic with the industry's appeal concerning trade disputes, stressing the need for further efforts by Japan to rectify its external trade imbalances, according to ministry officials.

MITI [Ministry of International Trade and Industry] Minister Yuji Tanahashi, who was also present at the meeting, agreed with Watanabe, saying the government will seek further cooperation from industry to solve the auto trade dispute, which he termed one of the biggest issues facing Japan at present.

With the presidential election set for next year, Washington is likely to exert more pressure on Japan to shave its auto and auto-parts trade surpluses with the U.S., which accounted for more than 70 percent of the bilateral trade imbalance last year.

The auto issue is expected to be one of major agenda items when U.S. President George Bush visits Japan in early January.

The chairmen of the "Big Three" automakers are reportedly coming to Tokyo with Bush.

Association officials also requested that the 3 percent extra consumption tax on automobiles on top of the ordinary 3 percent consumption tax be scrapped at the end of March as originally planned.

Tanahashi assured them that the government should honor its original pledge to end the extra tax in the current fiscal year.

To cover a massive tax revenue shortfall for the next fiscal year, the Finance Ministry is reportedly considering keeping the additional tax on automobiles as one means of relieving the situation.

The industry leaders also called for flexible monetary and fiscal policy to keep the increasingly frail economy afloat.

Tanahashi, in response, said the ministry believes the economy needs further stimulation, particularly on the monetary front.

SDF Multinational Forces Participation Shelved

OW1112133291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1316 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—A ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] panel on Wednesday shelved an idea to allow the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to participate in a multinational military force such as that formed during the Gulf crisis, party officials said.

An LDP research commission on Japan's role in international society, headed by former Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, reached the decision at a drafting committee session held to produce a report for submission to the party, possibly early next year.

Commission members agreed at the meeting to put in the report that the SDF should take part in future United Nations peacekeeping forces.

But they decided to do away with plans to allow the SDF to participate in multinational forces formed under United Nations resolutions because such forces "have a totally different image from those of U.N. forces," the officials said.

Further on Visit by Thai Prime Minister Anan

Miyazawa Presented 'White Paper'

BK1012012691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Dec 91 pp 1,3

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun yesterday presented a White Paper and an aide memoire to Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa during their two-hour meeting in Tokyo.

The White Paper and the aide memoire outlined Thailand's proposals to Japan on bilateral relations and economic, trade and other cooperation between the two countries in the region.

Mr Miyazawa, on meeting Mr Anan at Government House, asked him when a general election would be held in Thailand.

Mr Anan was accompanied by Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on and representatives of the Thai private sector.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Political Department director-general Sarot Chawanawirat said that two prime ministers also exchanged views on a wide range of issues.

The White Paper, the second of its kind, evaluates the economic relationship between Thailand and Japan, points to economic trends and Thailand's role in the ASEAN and Indochina region, and makes proposals for adjusting economic relations between the two countries.

On trade cooperation in the short term, the Thai proposals call for negotiation to remove obstacles to Thai exports to Japan and for Japan to open its market to Thai goods. In the long term, the standard of Thai exports, both agricultural and industrial, are to be improved, including their packaging, distribution and structure for industrial production.

In the service sector, cooperation should be reached in sea transport and tourism.

Japan should invest with Thailand—under the Seventh National Development Plan—in the metal, steel, electronics and textile industries.

It should also quickly consider the use of the ASEAN Japan Development Fund in expanding Japanese investment in the provinces in Thailand.

In the field of technology and human resource development, Japan will support the development of research and basic technological structure in Thailand, promote technology transfers and set up a Japanese Technical School in the country.

On the environment, assistance will be sought from Japan to tackle problems in the old industrial area of Thailand, to promote the relocation of factories from Bangkok and to plan a system for the environmental protection of the city.

Thailand should help coordinate Japanese assistance to Indochina. Thailand is ready to be the centre for the development of Indochina and to help efforts by Japan and other countries. Japan should use Thai goods and services in giving its assistance.

Thailand is also seeking cooperation from Japan to develop a free trade area in ASEAN. Japan should help by expanding its investment and opening its market to goods from ASEAN, with Thailand as the base for production and export. Japan could cooperate to set up a bank or a fund for the development of Southeast Asia in Thailand.

The aide memoire makes similar proposals but also stated that Japan is Thailand's most important economic partner, with capital investment and development assistance from Japan having contributed significantly to Thailand's economic and social development.

It said that in the past the pattern of relationship was virtually a one-way flow of goods and services from Japan to Thailand. Thailand's trade deficit with Japan has been prevalent since the 1950s. In the 1980s Thailand was able to export more to Japan. And from 1985, Thailand became an important offshore production base for Japan from which both countries have benefited.

The chronic trade deficit, however, remains with the gap widening. The Thai-Japanese trade deficit has increased five-fold to 150,000 million baht from 30,000 million baht in the past five years.

The long-term policy of Thailand's relationship with major economic partners will be guided by the objectives stipulated in its development plan.

Mr Sarot said that Japan yesterday agreed to further discuss details of the White Paper at assistant ministerial level.

The Japanese premier also expressed support for the Thai proposal for Japanese cooperation to develop the kingdom into the centre for the development of Indochina and Burma.

Mr Anan also briefly met Japanese ex-premier Toshiki Kaifu.

Discusses Joint Ventures, UNTAC

OW1012145391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 (KYODO)—Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said Tuesday Thai and Japanese firms should engage in joint ventures in Indochina, according to Foreign Ministry officials.

Officials said Asa also told Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe in a 40-minute meeting that Thailand and Japan could cooperate in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Indochina by training people from that region in Thailand.

Asa is accompanying Thailand's Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun on a four-day unofficial visit to Japan.

He was elaborating on remarks Anan had made to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday concerning Thailand's desire to serve as the hub for international efforts to reconstruct,the battered economies of Indochina.

Officials said Asa and Watanabe agreed in their separate talks that it is essential that the United Nations Transitional Administration in Cambodia (UNTAC) establish itself in Cambodia as soon as possible to ensure security and facilitate the rapid repatriation of refugees.

UNTAC, which is to include a peacekeeping force of some 10,000 soldiers and police, will oversee the interim process leading up to general elections, according to the terms of a peace settlement signed by rival Cambodian factions in Paris on October 23.

Officials said the two foreign ministers shared the view that the massive amount of funds needed to support the operation must be put to good use. UNTAC is expected to be the costliest U.N. peacekeeping operation ever.

Watanabe noted that the smooth repatriation of refugees from Thailand is one of the most important tasks for the immediate future and pledged Japanese financial contributions to that end.

Asa signed an agreement in Phnom Penh last month with Cambodia and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to repatriate more than 350,000 Cambodians in refugee camps inside Thailand.

Officials quoted Asa as saying that Thailand no longer considers Vietnam a military threat and does not feel any desire to "compete" with its traditional rival.

Watanabe said that Japan is also enhancing its ties with Hanoi while keeping an eye on the Cambodian peace process.

But he said Japan cannot extend full official development assistance (ODA) to Vietnam until the two countries reach agreement on repayment of the former South Vietnamese Government's debt to Japan.

He noted that Japan has pledged intellectual and technical assistance for Vietnam's economic reform policies separate from ODA.

Anan Rebuts Amnesty's Criticism

OW1112111991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1053 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Visiting Thai Price Minister Anan Panyarachun said Wednesday charges by Amnesty International that Thailand has deported hundreds of refugees who fled Myanmar [Burma] since 1988 reflect "partial truth."

Amnesty International's August 1991 report called on the Bangkok government to stop forced repatriation and improve its handling of refugees and dissidents from Myanmar.

Anan, who is on a four-day visit in Tokyo, told a news conference at the Japan National Press Club that the Amnesty report "may reflect a part of the truth or partial truth."

"There might have been some incidents conducted by Thai officials which could create such a reputation...of the mishandlings," he said.

The London-based human rights group's report, entitled "Thailand, concern about treatment of Burmese refugees," describes cases of arrests, detentions, and forced repatriation of dissidents and refugees from Myanmar. The report was based on detailed interviews with refugees conducted in June and July this year.

International human rights organizations estimate that some 50,000 refugees from Myanmar, including 1,100 dissidents recognized as political refugees by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), are currently in Thailand following the 1988 suppression of the pro-democracy movement in Yangon.

The Bangkok government said earlier there are about 500 dissidents from Myanmar in Bangkok and another "1,000 to 2,000" more along the Thai-Myanmar border since 1988. The refugees fled to Thailand after the crackdown in which hundreds of pro-democracy protesters were reportedly shot dead by the Myanmar military.

Anan told reporters, "there might have been a few specific cases of mishandling. They were not motivated by the desire to violate human rights." The report says, "at least five Burmese who have been forcibly returned are thought to remain in prison in Myanmar."

Asked about Thailand's position on the two-year house arrest of Myanmar's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, Anan said he regards the Myanmar Government's treatment of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate as "regrettable."

Anan, who was installed as Thai prime minister after a military coup in February that ousted the elected government, said he questions, however, the effectiveness of western nations putting pressure on the Myanmar junta as a way to win the release of Aung San Suu Kyi.

In reply to a question on alleged abuses of Thai women by Japanese crime organizations, Anan said his government will warn young Thai women against going to Japan.

He expressed his deep concern about the widely reported cases of Thai women who come to Japan to work as bar hostesses or entertainers and who are often allegedly forced into prostitution by unscrupulous Japanese employers.

Calling the treatment suffered by these women "brutal," he said his government will take steps to ensure that "the flow of these people will be minimized."

Pledges Continued Free-Market Policies

OW1112124691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1225 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun pledged to Japanese business leaders Wednesday that his country will adhere to free-enterprise economic policies despite political turbulence.

Referring to the Thai military's promise to restore constitutional and democratic rule by April, Anan said, "whatever is the makeup of the new government, you can rest assured that free enterprise and market economy shall always remain the centerpiece of Thailand's economic development."

Anan, a former diplomat and business leader installed as head of an interim government after last February's military coup removed elected leaders, made the remarks in a speech to the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

Asked in a press conference later in the day whether he would seek the premiership in general elections slated for next March, Anan said he had no current "intention of being involved further in the political affairs of the country."

But, he said of the election, "I will cross that bridge when I come to it."

Anan suggested that he accepted the premiership only to ensure Thailand's economic stability and to prevent a loss of international confidence.

"I am not a politician by profession or by choice. I'm a politician by necessity," he said.

Anan drew his Keidanren audience's attention to the "new potentials and prospects" presented by the impending end to 13 years of war in Thailand's neighbor, Cambodia.

"It is time for assisting the countries of Indochina in rebuilding their economies and reintegrating them into the mainstream of the regional and world economy," he said.

He said Thailand could help channel aid to Cambodia from international donors, offer facilities for human resource development and training, and supply needed resources for rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Thailand "stands ready to be the center from which the reconstruction of Cambodia will be launched," anand said.

The Thai premier told reporters the Malaysian-proposed East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) "should be generally acceptable" when it comes up for approval at next month's summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Denying the EAEC would be a closed trading bloc, Anan said it is designed only to provide a forum for consultation on issues of common interest in trade and economics. He said it was not even certain whether "any collective decisions will be defined in that forum."

Watanabe Pledges Support for Argentine Reforms

OW1012163391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1502 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Japan will provide concrete support for Argentina's economic reform programs and is now ready to consider that country's requests for Official Development Assistance (ODA), Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Tuesday.

Watanabe made the remarks in a meeting with Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella, who arrived in Japan on Sunday for a four-day official visit, the first by an Argentine minister since 1984.

Officials quoted Watanabe as saying Japan evaluates highly the market-oriented economic reforms implemented by the government of Carlos Menem, which have been quite successful in revitalizing the Argentine economy and ending the hyperinflation that characterized it in the 1980's.

Noting Japan's intention to support that positive trend, Watanabe said the Export-Import Bank of Japan has recently begun negotiating the details of a 30 billion yen bank loan with the Argentine Government.

In addition, Japan will begin negotiations on a rescheduling of the Argentine debt, the fourth in a series of reschedulings of debts of major debtor countries based on decisions reached in the Paris Club of primary creditor nations, he said.

Watanabe said Japan would also be willing to begin talks with Argentina on an investment protection agreement, originally proposed by Buenos Aires.

Noting that Argentina became eligible for ODA loans from this fiscal year, which began in April, Watanabe said Japan is ready to consider to any aid requests.

Referring to the Argentine Government's ambitious privatization scheme, in which all state enterprises are to be sold to the private sector by the end of next year, di Tella suggested that those Japanese companies wishing to benefit should take timely action.

In response to di Tella's remarks that Argentina wants to "upgrade" its relations with Japan, officials said Watanabe proposed that the foreign ministries of the two countries hold regular working-level political consultations to that end. Di Tella was quoted as welcoming the idea.

The officials said di Tella forwarded a letter from Menem to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, inviting him to visit Argentina if he travels to Rio de Janeiro in June for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Di Tella also invited Watanabe to pay an official visit to Argentina and said that Menem is prepared to visit Japan at a time to Japan's convenience, they said.

Latvian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

OW1112091491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0741 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans arrived at Narita airport Wednesday for a three-day unofficial visit to Japan.

Jurkans is scheduled to meet with Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada and business leaders, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

Jurkans is the highest-ranking Latvian official to visit Tokyo since Japan recognized the independence of the three Baltic states September 6 and established diplomatic relations October 10.

The two countries maintained ties between 1920 and 1941, prior to Latvia's incorporation into the Soviet Union.

Japanese Boat Begins Fishing in Soviet Waters

OW1112090791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0759 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tottori, Dec. 11 KYODO—A Japanese fishing boat with Soviet inspectors aboard has begun crab fishing in the Soviet 200-mile economic zone off Nakhodka under a joint venture with a Soviet marine product processing company, fishery sources here said Wednesday.

Daishin Suisan Co. said the crabbing operation, which also is designed to survey fish resources in the area, is part of its joint venture with Dalemore Product, a Soviet fish-processing enterprise.

The refitted tuna fishing boat, No. 68 Fukuyo Maru, owned by Tottori Prefecture-based Daishin, is scheduled to return to his home port of Sakaiminato around December 20, Daishin officials said.

The two companies established Daishin Dalemore Product Co., in Vladivostok last fall.

Daishin had been exporting frozen sardines and used automobiles to the Soviet Union in preparation for the undertaking.

ROK Urges Sincere Actions on Compensation Suit

OW1112011091 Tokyo KYODO in English 2306 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 KYODO—South Korea has urged Japan to take sincere actions regarding an unknown number of Korean women who were forced to provide sex services for Japanese soldiers during World War II, officials said Wednesday.

Kim Suk-u, director general of the South Korean Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, filed the request with Jun Kawashima, [word indistinct] at the Japanese Embassy, on Tuesday.

Kim asked Kawashima to have Japan investigate the truth about the so-called "comfort ladies" and to provide a list of any such women.

The Japanese diplomat replied that he will convey the request to the government in Tokyo.

Last week in Tokyo, three "comfort ladies" filed suit against the Japanese Government, calling for justice 50 years after the start of war in the Pacific theater.

Japanese Government officials have shunned responsibility for the estimated 100,000 to 200,000 comfort women, maintaining they were under private management.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said last Friday the government is facing difficulties because its searches have failed to turn up evidence that the government was involved.

Government To Consider 'Sufferings'

OW1112051391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0334 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Japan, softening its claim that the government bears no responsibility for World War II "comfort girls," said Wednesday it is prepared to take into consideration the sufferings of an unknown number of Korean women forced to engage in sex with Japanese soldiers.

"We must not only respond to this legalistically on the basis of a treaty but also take into consideration the suffering and scars that were inflicted under past circumstances," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a regularly scheduled news conference.

Kato's remarks followed an official request by the South Korean Government Tuesday to provide a list of the Korean women who were dispatched to brothels on the front lines.

Some 100,000 to 200,000 women, mostly from Korea then under Japanese rule, were allegedly forced to become "comfort girls" to Japanese soldiers.

Japanese officials earlier maintained that the women were under private management and that war reparations had already been addressed by a treaty with the South Korean Government.

Kato said the government also plans to intensify its investigation in the wake of heightened public interest in the issue and the first public statements by actual victims. The results will be relayed to Seoul, he said.

Later in the day the chief government spokesman told a news conference it was unlikely the investigation would be concluded in time for Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's visit to Seoul, expected in mid-January.

He also retracted a statement made earlier that the Labor Ministry had been asked to carry out a "zealous probe," saying that various ministries were still being consulted on how to proceed.

Last week three former comfort women who said they were forced to provide sexual services to Japanese soldiers during the war, along with 32 other South Koreans seeking reparations for wartime abuses, filed suit demanding compensation.

It was the first time for former "comfort girls" to call publicly for Japan to state its involvement and award compensation.

Each plaintiff is seeking 20 million yen.

The Japanese Government, following a visit here by South Korean President No Tae-u in spring 1990, initially said the women would be included in list of forced laborers that it planned to turn over to Seoul.

However the government subsequently said there is no evidence it was involved in rounding up the women and the finalized list did not include the women.

A Korean official traveling with No at the time said the South Korean Government regarded the compensation issue closed.

Bank Governor Foresees No Change in Policy

OW1112102191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0747 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Bank of Japan [BOJ] Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday that the recent weak economic indicators are no reason to change current monetary policy.

The recent data, including gross national product statistics for the July-September quarter released last week and the BOJ's quarterly survey on business sentiment released Tuesday, show the economy is following the path the central bank thought it would when it lowered the official discount rate in November, Mieno said.

"The economy is undergoing the inevitable process of shifting from a little too rapid growth in the past few years to a more sustainable, balanced expansion," Mieno said at a press conference.

Japan's GNP grew at a puny annualized 1.6 percent in the July-September period, and the BOJ's so-called "Tankan" survey showed that business sentiment is deteriorating rapidly.

Many economists expect the central bank to ease its grip on credit to prop up the economy.

But Mieno reiterated that there are no concerns that the current slowdown of the Japanese economy will degenerate into a recession.

Mieno said corporate capital spending, which he termed the key to reading the future course of the economy, remains brisk due to strong corporate appetite for investing in innovation.

He also noted consumer spending, supported by favorable employment conditions, will continue to underpin economic health.

Mieno said the declines in interest rates in the past few months are providing a stimulus to capital investment.

The central banker also said domestic inflation, especially wholesale prices, has been tamed, but added the uptrend in service prices is continuing due to the tight labor market.

Mieno said the faltering Tokyo Stock Market is bound to have a negative impact on corporate business sentiment as well as on bank management as falling stock prices depress banks' equity-to-capital ratios.

But he refused to say whether he is seriously concerned about the current stock price level.

The benchmark Nikkei index fell to the lowest level for the year in Wednesday's trading.

Asked about the moves in the government to lift the lending restriction to real estate businesses, Mieno said perpetuating the current stability of land prices requires long-term and comprehensive measures on both tax and legal fronts.

The current lending curb is an emergency measure and should not remain in place for long, he said.

Mieno also said he had heard nothing about a meeting of the Group of Seven's deputy finance ministers to discuss the recent developments in the Soviet Union.

Mieno said the prospects for the U.S. economy making a strong recovery in the short term are dim.

He said the factors dragging down the U.S. economy, like excess stock in the real estate business, high debt ratios for both companies and consumers, and bad fiscal positions of both federal and local governments, are all deep-rooted problems and cannot be easily solved.

But he said that he hopes the "accumulated effect" of the Federal Reserve's monetary easing over the past months will have a good impact on the economy.

Mieno also said the BOJ supports any efforts by Japanese banks to disclose information concerning bad debts or debt arrears.

Official Projects $100 Billion Trade Surplus

OW1012152091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1233 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 (KYODO)—A top official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) on Tuesday projected Japan's trade surplus in fiscal 1991 will balloon to about 100 billion dollars, well above the government forecast of 56 billion dollars.

MITI Vice Minister Yuji Tanahashi reported his prediction of the surplus, calculated on an international payments basis, to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa the same day.

Miyazawa asked for the ministry to seek ways to explain to the world Japan's efforts to increase its imports.

Although Japan's surplus with the United States is maintaining previous-year levels, that with Europe is showing over 50 percent growth, and the surplus stemming from machinery sales is huge, ministry officials said.

Japan's largest trade surplus was posted in fiscal 1986 when it hit 101.6 billion dollars. It fell to 69.9 billion dollars in fiscal 1990.

Nov Trade Surplus Up 192 Percent on Year

OW1112102291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0855 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Japan's trade surplus increased 192 percent in November from a year earlier to 6,555.9 million dollars, the Finance Ministry said Wednesday.

As Japan's trading partners become increasingly wary, the politically sensitive trade surplus posted its 11th consecutive monthly year-on-year rise, as measured on a customs-cleared basis.

According to the ministry's monthly preliminary report, November exports totaled 27,062.2 million dollars, up a moderate 5.1 percent over a year earlier, helped by strong exports of automobiles, telecommunications equipment, and semiconductors.

Imports, on the other hand, fell 12.7 percent to 20,506.3 million dollars—the third substantial monthly drop in a row.

Imports of crude oil and other petroleum products continued to show considerable declines in both volume and value from year- earlier levels, when the Persian Gulf war boosted such imports, ministry officials said.

With the latest data, Japan's cumulative trade surplus for April through November came to 53,682 million dollars. The government's initial projection for the full fiscal year ending next March 31 was about 56,000 million dollars.

Economists predict no major downturn in Japan's trade surplus in the near future, which is likely to irritate the country's major trading partners.

The Japan Trade Council, a group of major Japanese trading houses, recently predicted that the nation's trade surplus would top 100 billion dollars in fiscal 1991 and in fiscal 1992 as well.

Japan's record annual trade surplus was 101.6 billion dollars registered in fiscal 1986.

Kuniji Okue, a chief economist at County Natwest Securities Japan Ltd. said Japan's exports remain stronger than expected, especially to the countries in the European Community (EC), with demand still strong in Germany for Japanese goods.

He noted that Japan's imports of manufactured goods are showing a declining trend in the weakening domestic economic climate, adding there is no immediate turnaround in sight.

Finance Ministry officials attributed the 192.8 percent rise in November's trade surplus to the plunge from a year earlier in imports of crude oil and other petroleum products.

Imports of crude oil dropped 39 percent in volume from their massive levels of the previous November, when Japan was concerned about developments in the Persian Gulf war.

The value of those imports also declined, as the price averaged 20.85 dollars per barrel in November this year, down from 34.16 dollars a year before.

The dollar's value advanced against the yen in November by 1.6 percent from its year-earlier level, but the U.S. currency's strength apparently had no notable impact on Japan's resurging trade surplus.

Japan's November trade surplus with the United States totaled 3,589.35 million dollars, up 0.8 percent from a year earlier.

Automobile exports to the U.S. declined 8.8 percent in volume and 1.1 percent in value, narrowing the overall increase in exports by only 1.4 percent, according to the Finance Ministry.

The trade surplus with the European Community (EC) jumped 24.6 percent to 1,850.6 million dollars.

Overall exports to the region fell 3.7 percent, undermined by a plunge in automobile exports of 21.7 percent in volume and 20.3 percent in value. But imports from the EC fell 16.4 percent, including a 91.7 percent drop in imports of high-priced art works.

Japan's trade surplus with Asian countries surged 97.6 percent from a year earlier to 2,656.49 million dollars. Exports to the area rose 9.5 percent, while imports declined 7.8 percent.

In particular, exports of automobiles to the rest of Asia shot up 91.4 percent in volume and 95.2 percent in value, the ministry said.

Government Reports Health Ministry Most Wasteful

OW0912080091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0731 GMT 09 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—The Health and Welfare Ministry topped the list of government agencies in wasteful use of national budget allocations in fiscal 1990, which totaled 10.3 billion yen, a government report said Monday.

According to the board of audit report submitted to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, the sum of money wasted through unlawful or unreasonable expenditure and inefficient management was down by 4 billion yen from the previous year.

However, the number of cases of negligence increased by more than 40 to 263 from the previous year, which was itself the highest in history.

The Health and Welfare Ministry was reported as wasting 4.65 billion yen in 124 cases.

Due to a lack of thorough investigations, the ministry paid an excess of 3.46 billion yen to nine cities and towns, including Sapporo, for national health insurance services, the board said.

The ministry also paid out more than 330 million yen in unnecessary medical fees by failing to check inappropriate demands for payments. Another 721 million yen was paid out to meet unwarranted demands for attendant nurse fees.

The Finance Ministry was the second-biggest waster of public funds, frittering away 1.45 billion yen in such cases as inadequate collection of tax declaration forms.

The Post and Telecommunications Ministry was third on the list with 913 million yen in wasted expenditure. Employees at 30 of its local post offices embezzled a total of 551 million yen worth of customers' postal savings and insurance payments, the report said.

The report also cited the unreasonable pay out of 19 million yen to seven courts, including the Tokyo District Court, in unnecessary expenses for business trips, as well as the failure to collect taxes amounting to 1.38 billion yen because of the lack of investigations by 165 tax offices nationwide.

The board in its report urged the Housing and Urban Development Corporation to make more efficent use of 23,000 square meters of land owned by the corporation, reserved for medical and educational facilities.

It also noted that Official Development Assistance (ODA) is "going relatively smoothly" but said recipient countries should be urged to make greater efforts to help themselves.

The board surveyed five ODA recipient nations—Tanzania, Thailand, India, Indonesia, and Nepal—and 76 programs from 1977 to 1990 involving more than 180 billion yen.

It cited cases that were not effective, and said it included ODA in its report because it did not want the aid to be "ill-spent money."

'Standards' Worked Out for Release of Information

OW1112115691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Information on such matters as the nation's security and diplomacy will not be made public under standards for administrative organs to judge whether or not official documents can be released to the public, which the government worked out Wednesday, officials said.

However, the standards will not carry any legal force and attempts to reverse decisions on the status of information will not be entertained, the officials said.

The government has been studying proposals of such standards since 1979, amid mounting calls from consumer groups and the public for freedom of information.

The action is aimed at seeking public trust toward the government, but the standards will only be "items of understandings" from a management point of view, the officials said.

Information concerning the nation's security or diplomacy, relating to safety and public order such as criminal investigations, identifying certain individuals, and confidential company documents are among those listed as "closed" items.

The standards also say that when one part of a document corresponds to a closed item, the government will approve only partial release of the information.

But when the reasons for information being closed have diminished or disappeared, the government will "make an effort" to release it to the public, the officials said.

If administrative organs decide certain information is exclusive, based on the standards, and can give adequate reasoning for the decision, there will be no access to the public, they said.

At the local government level, about 200 cities, towns, and villages have already enacted regulations on releasing information.

Nuclear Plant Begins Uranium-Enriching Test

OW1112051791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0302 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Amori, Dec. 11 KYODO—Japan Nuclear Fuel Industries Corp. began test operations to enrich uranium at its uranium enrichment plant at Rokkasho in Aomori Prefecture, northern Japan, on Wednesday to prepare for full-scale operations in January.

The uranium enrichment plant will be one of the key facilities of the nuclear fuel recycling complex being constructed in Rokkasho.

The complex, with the uranium enrichment plant, a nuclear fuel reprocessing facility, and a low-level radioactive waste storage center as its main institutions, is expected to play a pivotal role in Japan's nuclear fuel projects.

Japan currently relies entirely on foreign imports for its enriched uranium but in the future the uranium enrichment plant is expected to supply 25 percent of the country's uranium needs.

On Wednesday, natural uranium hexafluoride was released into a centrifugal separator at the plant as a first step to produce enriched uranium.

It will take some 10 days to get enriched uranium by the centrifugal separator, company officials said.

Mongolia

Mongolian Renewal Party Splits Ranks of MPRP

LD0712112491 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1630 GMT 5 Dec 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] A split has occurred in the ranks of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP], Mongolia's leading political party.

[Correspondent A. Ukhov—identified by caption] It occurred on the day that the Great People's Hural was at work and on the eve of the 21st congress of the MPRP. Ten deputies belonging the MPRP and several Central Committee members declared that they were leaving the party's ranks and setting up a new party—the Mongolian Renewal Party.

They set out their position at a news conference. For two years the left wing of the MPRP struggled for changes within the party, Lhagbaa, one of the leaders of the new movement, stated, and participated in the preparations for the congress. However, everything remained as before. The conservative apparatchiks did not listen to anyone else's views and continue to be true to ideological dogmatism.

The members of the committee on the creation of the new party noted that they totally repudiate the structures of the MPRP, its ideology and, they particularly stressed, its methods. So frequently were the words "national spirit of renewal" to be heard in the speeches by those who spoke that I asked them whether they are not afraid that their party will change from being a national-democratic one into being a nationalist one.

[Ts. Rentsenbyamba—identified by caption] First, we consider that raising the standard of living of the people is impossible without a levelling of all people living in Mongolia. Second, the party's main idea is to achieve accord between all public forces, and this will also be impossible if anyone's national dignity is flouted.

[G. Purevbator—identified by caption] There is still a way to ensure that our party does not become nationalist. It must be headed by a person who supports democratic convictions.

[Ukhov] In the two days alone since the decision to set up the Mongolian Renewal Party, 300 active members of the MPRP supporting national-democratic convictions have defected to its ranks.

Peasants, Herdsmen Establish Political Party

OW0912015191 Beijing XINHUA in English 0138 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, December 8 (XINHUA)—A Mongolian Peasant and Herdsman Party was established in Ulaanbaatar Saturday.

The party aims to restore and develop the country's national culture through fundamental political and economic reforms.

There are now 11 political parties in Mongolia, 7 of which are registered with Mongolia's courts.

By law, Mongolian citizens have the right to found a political party and take part in party activities.

Any party with at least 900 members can apply for registration with the courts.

North Korea

Fifth Round High-Level N-S Talks Opens 11 Dec

Commentator Views South Stand

SK1112042191 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Commentary by station commentator Kim Kyong-pok: "The Position Seeking Confrontation, War, and Division Should Be Abandoned"]

[Text] As everyone knows, the fifth round of the North-South high-level talks will be held beginning on 11 December in Seoul.

Our side's delegation led by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK Administration Council, went to Seoul through Panmunjom on 10 December to attend the talks.

It can be said that the feelings of the fellow countrymen, with the approach of the fifth round of the North-South high-level talks, are ones mixed with expectations and disappointments. This is because both sides' attitude and position toward the talks are greatly different and because the South side, since the fourth round of the talks, has not hesitated to commit activities undermining the atmosphere of dialogue and throwing a wet blanket over the future of the dialogue.

As is known, at the fourth North-South high-level talks, both sides agreed to adopt a North-South joint document of agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchanges between the North and the South. In addition, they reached agreement on the system of their formation and subtitles. This is the first hard-won fruit born since the beginning of the North-South high-level talks. Thus, this inspires fellow countrymen and world people to expect some advance of the talks.

However, in the process of representatives' contacts on four occasions to arrange the texts of the documents of agreement, the differences of both sides' positions have been clearly shown. To accept a historic North-South joint agreement in the fifth round of the North-South high-level talks at any rate, our side put forward reasonable and aboveboard draft agreements and epoch-making compromise proposals. By so doing, our side has made all possible sincerity and efforts.

However, the South side has argued to put into the text of the draft documents a justification for the fabrication of the two Koreas. In addition, claiming first confidence building and then military cuts, the South side was opposed to confirming a nonaggression agreement to the end. Proceeding from its ambition for reunification through abolition, the South persistently tried to put into the text of the draft documents stipulations leading us to openness.

It is clear that the South side has no intention to adopt any document of agreement for reconciliation, unity, peace, and reunification for the same fellow countrymen. In the long run, under the circumstances in which the text of the joint North-South documents of agreement have not been arranged, the fifth round of the North-South high-level talks will be held. Thus, the vista of the talks cannot be predicted.

What we cannot but regard as grave is the South side's open provocative activities of throwing a wet blanket over the atmosphere of dialogue. As soon as the South side returned after finishing the fourth round of talks with us, it, with the U.S. imperialists, conducted the aggressive and very adventurous Eagle-91 joint military exercise, which simulated us as their enemy. In addition, in the process of contacts with us for dialogue, it held the so- called annual Security Consultative Meeting with the United States and conspired for a very dangerous war.

While babbling about nonexistent North nuclear development, they claimed that, unless we adopt an international nuclear inspection, they will not conduct the second-phase cuts of U.S. forces in South Korea; will newly introduce into South Korea ultramodern military equipment, including Patriot interceptor missiles; conduct a naval blockade against the North; take measures for economic sanctions; and take other strong countermeasures. They decided to mobilize all ultramodern equipment used in the Gulf War for next year's Team Spirit joint military exercise and to expand it into an unprecedented scale.

The Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement they signed can be regarded as a document to back up such a move to kick off a war. If they have the intention to resolve the issues concerning national peace and peaceful reunification, how on earth dare they stick to such a reckless adventure against theair partner in dialogue?

The measure of the South Korean authorities clearly shows that they have no intention for peaceful reunification, only for a vile plan to attack the same fellow countrymen in collaboration with foreign aggressors. This greatly endangers the perspective for dialogue.

If advance is made in the North-South dialogue, both sides should take the attitude for peace and reunification, and each should refrain from inciting the other. The South side should now give up the position of seeking confrontation, war, and division, should return to the attitude of seeking peace and reunification, and should sincerely come to dialogue.

As for us, we will make all possible efforts for the fifth round of the North-South high-level talks to bear fruit for the pleasure and satisfaction of fellow countrymen. The outlook of the talks depends upon the attitude of the South side. We will watch the South side's position and attitude toward the talks.

Keynote Speeches Reported

SK1112122991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul December 11 (KCNA correspondent)—The first day session of the fifth North-South high-level talks took place today in Sheraton Hotel in Seoul.

Attending the talks were Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK Administration Council and head of the North side's delegation; general of the Korean People's Army [KPA] Kim Kwang-chin; spokesman An Pyong-su who is vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland; Paek Nam-chun, director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland; Kim Chong-u, vice-minister of external economic affairs; Choe U-chin, roving ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Major General of the KPA Kim Yong-chol; and suite members, and chief delegate Chong Won-sik, "prime minister" of South Korea, and delegates and suite members of South side.

Premier Yon Hyong-muk made a keynote speech at the talks.

Chong Won-sik also made a keynote speech.

In his keynote speech he proposed an "agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, exchange and cooperation between the South and North (draft)", the one which he said had been readjusted in consideration of the North side's opinion. But, in fact, it reiterated the unjust argument of his side. In the nonaggression question he insisted on writing down explicitly the flunkeyist words of dependence on outside forces, proposing to iron out differences and disputes arising between the South and the North in accordance with the U.N. Charter and on stipulating totally ineffective questions such as prior information of military exercises and transfer of units, exchanges of inspection groups of exercises and military information the keynote of which is "confidence-building first and disarmament next".

While talking about "North-South exchange", "cooperation" and "contact" he did not utter a word about the abrogation of the evil laws against exchange, dialogue and reunification such as the "National Security Law". By insisting on stipulating in the agreement that it would not affect the agreements and treaties signed with other countries, he revealed the intention to give priority to such treaties as the "Korea-U.S. Mutual Defence Pact" already signed with the United States and keep the U.S. troops in South Korea.

The South Korean chief delegate, in his keynote speech, even put forward a "joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula (draft)" as an "urgent proposal", in which he contended that "nuclear inspection" should be made of the North which has neither nuclear weapons nor the intention and ability to develop them, while turning blind eyes to the more than 1,000 U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea.

The keynote speech made by the South side today shows vividly that the South Korean authorities are attempting to attain their insidious goal through the North-South high-level talks, sticking to the policy of dependence on outside forces.

Today's talks closed with the keynote speeches of the heads of delegation of both sides.

After the talks the spokesman of our side gave a news briefing.

The talks will continue on the 12th.

Premier Urges Denuclearization

SK1112052491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul December 11 (KCNA correspondent)—Head of the North side's delegation Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, at the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks open here urged the South side to accept the urgent proposal for denuclearisation put forward by us at the last fourth talks and our new draft agreement in which our side largely accepted the content of the draft agreement of the South side.

In his keynote speech at today's session the head of our side's delegation advanced "declaration on the denuclearisation on Korean peninsula" which had been put forward by us at the fourth talks held in Pyongyang in October and "agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchange between the North and the South" (draft), a new concessional proposal in which the opinion of the South side was largely taken into consideration, and clarified our principled stand on this.

Comprehensively set out in our urgent proposal on denuclearisation are all the elements which can practically guarantee the denuclearisation, namely, the U.S. nuclear weapons which threaten our nation, deployed for action, be totally withdrawn and this be verified, the North and the South should not have nuclear weapons and should discharge the simultaneous nuclear inspection as required by the international treaty and prohibit the introduction of foreign nuclear weapons into the territory of our country and the nuclear-possessing nations should respect the status of the denuclearized Korean peninsula.

Yon Hyong-muk said:

The nuclear problem of our country owes its origin to the deployment of the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea and herein lies the basic content of the nuclear issue of our country.

The claim for "forcible inspection" while taking issue with the North's fictitious "nuclear development" is an undisguised interference in an independent sovereign state and an intolerable challenge to us.

If our fair proposal for the denuclearisation is realised, misgivings and distrust of each other will be dispelled smoothly with respect for each other, all the nuclear threat, realistic or potential, will be removed clearly and the United States, a nuclear- possessing nation, and us, a non-nuclear state, will implement faithfully the obligations under the treaty.

Yon advanced "agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchange between the North and the South" (draft) expressing our maximum magnanimity to the assertions of the South side.

It noted:

In accordance with the will of all the fellow countrymen who are desirous of the peaceful reunification of the divided country,

On the basis of the reaffirmation of the three principles of national reunification laid down in the July 4 joint statement,

The North and the South pledge themselves to remove the political and military confrontation for the promotion of national reconciliation and unity, for the prevention of encroachment and conflicts by armed forces, for the realisation of detente and for the maintenance of peace, to realize many-sided cooperation and exchange for the promotion of the common interests and prosperity of the nation, and to make concerted efforts to achieve peaceful reunification in recognition of the fact that the relationship between both sides is not the one between countries but a special one formed temporarily in the process of advancing towards reunification.

As regards this document, Yon Hyong-muk said:

We are willing to bring our opinion closer to yours on such discordant problems as those of expression in the text of the agreement, of the position and the order of arrangement of provisions in it and of its contents and all other problems. In particular, we are also ready to meet you halfway on such important matters at issue as those of converting the state of armistice into that of peace, of military confidence-building, of establishment of liaison offices, of opening to each other and exchange of newspapers, broadcasting, televisions and publications and realizing exchange in this field, of the correlations between the expected agreement and the existing treaties and agreements and of the installation of the joint commission as an organ executing the agreed items.

Spokesman Gives News Briefing

SK1112100191 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0700 GMT 11 Dec 91

[News briefing held by An Pyong-su, spokesman for the DPRK delegation, after the first day's session of the fifth round of North-South high-level talks on the afternoon of 11 December in Seoul—recorded]

[Text] As you reporters here saw, the first day's session ended with the completion of the two sides' keynote speeches. I will briefly tell you about the key points, gist, and other major points of our keynote speech. The stand of our delegates to the current fifth round of North-South talks is that they want to settle negotiations completely between the North and the South and sign a document of agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchange between the North and the South, which has entered a final phase. Signing the document of agreement is a very important watershed in determining the prospects of the talks.

In his keynote speech our delegation head pointed basically to three issues. He said that the expectations of people at home and abroad after the fourth round of talks in Pyongyang have since cooled off considerably for the current fifth round of the talks. The people in the North and the South alike are keenly watching the current fifth round of the talks, deeply worried about its prospects. What has caused them to worry about the prospects of the fifth round of the talks? For this, our delegation head pointed out two aspects in his speech.

Summing up the contacts of representatives of the two sides in Panmunjom on four occasions, we have found out that there is a problem in the South's attitude toward the talks. I do not see the need to give all of the concrete examples of that, but one example is that the South side has prepared its draft agreements, which contain more than 25 articles each. However, each draft agreement contains only six or seven problematic articles that are of essential and principled significance. There is no article in our draft agreements to which the South side is opposed. Why? In an effort to smoothly and easily achieve an agreement between the two sides we have removed from our draft agreements those articles we think may be unacceptable to the other side and which we think may create heated arguments between the two sides.

Those articles that have become the target of arguments are the South side's articles. This single fact alone properly shows the sharp contrast between our side's attitude of all possible sincerity at the contacts of representatives in Panmunjom, and the South side's stubborness by attempting to include its articles in draft agreements at any cost, disregarding the fate of the talks. Thus, our delegation head emphasized that we should draw a lesson from this. In other words, he stressed the need for us to take part in the talks sincerely.

The second problem was about relations between the North and the South, which have been further aggravated in recent months. As you know well, less than 10 days after the end of the fourth round of the talks in Pyongyang, the large-scale Eagle 91 South Korean-U.S. joint military exercise in South Korea was held. Following this, the South Korean-U.S. annual Security Consultative Meeting was held, which included unwarranted conspiracies.

In light of these facts, we cannot but doubt that the South side really has the will to alleviate the situation, to hold a dialogue in a good atmosphere, and thus provide a way for peace. So at today's session our delegation head stressed the need to do away with the vague will for peace. This was the issue that our delegation head pointed out first in today's session.

The second issue that our delegation head pointed out in his keynote speech was the nuclear question on the Korean peninsula, which has become a focus in the world today.

Regarding the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, our side first summarized the history of how the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula cropped up, as well as our efforts.

When did the nuclear issue make its appearance? The nuclear issue appeared about 30 years ago when nuclear weapons were deployed in South Korea. Since then we have repeatedly and resolutely called for turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free peace zone, as you all may know.

Over the past 30 years, however, the South side has kept its mouth shut about this. We have no way of knowing whether this is associated with the U.S. policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons. At any rate, we confirm that not once have we heard a word from the South clarifying its stand on the nuclear issue.

Only lately did the person in supreme authority in the South publish a non-nuclear declaration.

We view this three-point declaration as a reaction to our proposal for adopting a declaration on converting the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone which we put forward at the fourth round of talks.

Of course, the South side, when announcing the declaration on denuclearization, called on us in the North to respond to it. However, if a survey were taken, the answer to which side responded to which side would be self-evident.

At any rate, we see it as positive that the South side, which has kept its mouth shut for about 30 years, has made its stand clear on the nuclear issue to this extent.

Under conditions like this, let us examine the situation at home and abroad. The United States said that it would remove the nuclear weapons from the South—all of the tactical nuclear weapons. We have proposed that the North and South adopt a declaration on converting the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone. The South side announced a non-nuclear declaration recently, though unilaterally.

We interpret this as an expression of the will of all three parties to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

Under the circumstances, the head of our delegation again called for adopting a declaration on turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone at the fifth round of talks.

There is no difference from what we had advanced at the fourth round of talks.

What we would like to make clear at this point is that we have reminded the South side of the fact that in a statement issued by the DPRK Foreign Ministry on 25 November, we said that the moment the withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea begins, we will sign the Nuclear Safeguards Accord.

In proposing to the South side this time that we adopt a declaration on turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, we said we would welcome the individual points contained in the South side's three-point non-nuclear declaration—which, as I have just said, we find positive—to be included in the declaration or combine them with our proposal on a nuclear-free zone to make them a single document. This is very important.

We have expressed the positive stand that if anything in the points contained in the South side's non-nuclear declaration is unsatisfactory, we do not mind inserting something in it to make it acceptable. Or we are willing to accept them all.

Now that the two sides have made their true will for denuclearization very plain, we see a possibility of the two sides resolving this issue.

This is the second of the basic issues the head of our delegation made clear in his speech.

The third involves the agreement which has been discussed virtually at all rounds of talks. In fact, at the fourth round of talks, the two sides agreed to adopt a single agreement between the North and South, concurring in viewing the subheads. This was conspicuous headway in the talks.

Driven by a positive stand that, going one step beyond what has been discussed at the fourth round of talks, we will sign the agreement at any cost, we have brought six compromise proposals for discussion at the talks.

Before explaining the particulars of these compromise proposals, you must know, as I have mentioned earlier, our assertions have been absent from the points of contention until now. They are what the South side has unilaterally insisted on discussing.

This time around, we have agreed to include in principle all of the points of contention in the agreement, although some of them have changed in their content. That is, we have agreed to include in the agreement all such points, these points of contention, although they are a little variant in their content and expression. I mean that they will all be included in the agreement.

This is a very basic and progressive stand.

Here are issues on which we made concessions. The first is establishing liaison offices. We had rejected this from the beginning because, as you know from the speech by our delegation head, politically speaking it means two Koreas, and practically speaking, it is not necessary.

Regardless of what the so-called liaison offices are called, what they will do, and what roles they will play, they will be organizations representing each side. They surely are not branches of a business or company.

Under circumstances in which our relations are not relations between two states, we have no reason to establish liaison offices—those exist in relations between two states—within one nation. We oppose this plan because it is based upon a two-Koreas concept.

The South side explains: There will be many messages to be delivered and many issues to be discussed in the future. It would be good to open such offices in Seoul and Pyongyang.

Even if we accept the South side's logic at face value, we do not think that its plan is reasonable. One can go anywhere on the Korean peninsula in one day. North-South joint organizations or committees for different sectors will open to implement the North-South agreement. Moreover, all necessary measures will be taken to facilitate communications and travel. Under these circumstances, we have no reason to handle issues indirectly, via liaison offices.

However, even though it is problematic, we agreed on opening liaison offices. We proposed that they open in Panmunjom, not in Pyongyang and Seoul.

The second issue on which we made concessions is the border of nonaggression. We originally proposed that the Military Demarcation Line be the border of nonaggression. With islands in mind, the South side proposed that the border of nonaggression be not only the Military Demarcation Line but also the demarcation on the sea. We accepted this offer as well.

The third was the issue of promoting military trust and reducing armed forces. This is a very acute issue. We understand that promoting military trust is a concept that is included in the arms reduction, and this issue is mentioned in our all-inclusive arms reduction proposal.

The South side insists that measures be taken to promote trust before reducing armed forces and that the measures to promote trust include the exchange of military officials, observation and notification of military exercises, exchange of military information, and so on.

Our fundamental position on this issue is: We ask why we have to promote trust, a West European-style confidence-building measure that would take approximately 10 years in our country's circumstances, when the arms reduction will be achieved, and when preconditions for peaceful reunification will be provided.

Our people say that we must achieve reunification within the nineties, or before 1995 at the latest. The European-style measure is not suitable to us. The European-style confidence-building measure was intended for the coexistence of the East and West blocs, not for reunification. It was intended for coexistence and the maintenance of the status quo. Rather, we seek reunification.

In this sense, we had opposed treating the confidence-building measure as a separate issue. However, we made concessions because the South side stressed this measure very often. So, we proposed that the promotion of trust and the arms reduction be achieved simultaneously. This means that the South side must abandon the idea that trust must be promoted first. This also means that we accept the promotion of trust itself.

Another reason we had opposed the confidence-building measure was a problem in the details of this measure. One must not conduct military exercises, that is, large-scale military exercises and nuclear war exercises. Will the notification and observation of such military exercises help ease military confrontation? Of course not. How can trust be promoted when each side has potential for war? The South side proposed that military information be exchanged, which will enhance (?transparency). However, the military sector tends to have many secrets, does it not? Enhancing (?transparency) is important in the military sector. If we ask the South side to provide us with data on the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea, will it do so? The South side will not and cannot. Given these facts, the promotion of trust is very problematic in reality.

However, even though we know there are problems, out of a desire to conclude the letter of agreement, we made clear our position that the promotion of trust and the arms reduction must be achieved simultaneously.

Next is the issue of turning the armistice into a stable peace. This is what the South side proposed. The expression of turning the armistice into a stable peace is a version of the expression of turning the Armistice Agreement into a peace agreement. Anyway, the issue of turning the armistice on the Korean peninsula into peace does not concern only the South side. This is a problem.

Moreover, we are of the position that turning the Armistice Agreement into a peace agreement is a matter that the United States and we, the parties concerned, must resolve. We assume this position in consideration of the [word indistinct] relations between South Korea and the United States. Therefore, we advanced the compromise proposal that the clause that the North and South will make joint efforts to turn the armistice into peace be included [in the letter of agreement]. This means this clause is intact.

The next issue is opening up radio and television stations and publications and promoting exchange in these sectors. We had proposed that mutual cooperation and exchange be promoted in the cultural sectors—(?literary), sports, scientific and technological, educational, public health, and publications and media—as well. In connection with the mass media issue, the South side insists that, in opening up and promoting exchange in the fields of newspapers, radio stations, television stations, and publications, a separate clause for each field be included [in the letter of agreement]. We (?do not oppose) cooperation and exchange in the fields of newspapers, radios, televisions, and publications. This is mentioned in our draft agreement. This time, we made clear our position that we oppose opening up in these fields. I think that any government considers it an important policy to help its people possess sound, beautiful, noble political and moral and ideological and spiritual traits and lead civilized lives. However, no country has been able to implement such a policy. Is there any country that does not have juvenile delinquents? There are very many social evils of various kinds. We take particular pride in the fact that the socialism of our own unique style existing in the Northern half, the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style, is a very clean socialism. We take pride in the fact that juvenile delinquency has been (?eradicated) excellently in our country. We do not like foul water and rotten tastes to spill over to this clean society.

We are against our society being contaminated by such things. The parents of our students are especially against it. Those parents are very concerned about their children and their siblings [as heard] being under such a bad influence, and naturally their opposition to it is very strong. This is why we are against it.

However, we mean to say that we (?agree with the idea of promoting) exchanges and cooperation in this area even though the South side, while citing, individually and specifically, such things as the televison, newspapers, and radios, has insisted that we promote exchanges and cooperation. We objected to naming them all individually.

Thus, we have brought with us a few definite compromise proposals.

Finally, the South side put forward a proposal for forming a committee on passage, communications, and trade, as an executive organization in charge of diversified cooperation and exchanges between the North and South, and other such joint committees, with a fixed, specified name: North-South Committee on Passage, Communications, and Trade.

In fact, in view of the order of business at our talks, such issues should be dealt with by the subcommittees in the first place. What kind of committees we will need in the future should be discussed in detail by the subcommittees.

Nevertheless, we have put forward a proposal for forming joint committees in a host of areas, including the committee on economic cooperation and exchanges, instead of deferring the discussion of such things to subcommittees. I mean we have put forward a proposal, with stipulations in the drafted texts.

In the above-mentioned six points, we have brought compromise proposals to look for compromises on significant issues.

In concluding his speech, the head of our delegation again demanded that the South side not conduct the Team Spirit joint military exercise next year. We have repeatedly called for a discontinuation since the second round of the talks.

There was a report that the South side will conduct the Team Spirit joint military exercise next year, even larger than previous ones. This can be said to be swimming against the trends moving toward dialogue, peace, and reunification. This should not allowed to take place.

We have expressed our desire, a very ardent desire, for the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which stands in the way of the agreement, not to be conducted next year—at least skipping a year for once, next year—if for no other reason than to keep the talks in place, which are at the stage of consummation and which can hammer out an agreement.

Next, the issue about people who have visited the North. I will not go into more detail, but it is very regrettable that Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, a very old minister in his seventies, had been reimprisoned. We even said that reacting too sensitively to an old minister can be rather damaging to the South side, spiritually and morally. We also called for him to be treated adequately.

Thus far, I have described our basic stands mentioned in the keynote speech.

South Accused of Seeking To Disrupt Talks

SK1112042891 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] We arrived in Seoul on the morning of 10 December after crossing the South side's area at Panmunjom to cover the fifth North-South high-level talks.

In many places in the section from Munsan to Seoul where our delegation passed, such slogans as "Dialogue is the road to reunification!" "Let us achieve the reunification of 70 million people through dialogue!" and "One people, one bloodline!" were displayed. No one should dislike these slogans, which are good for everyone.

However, sincerity should be in one's heart, not on one's tongue. One should evaluate the editorial of HANGUK ILBO published that day as reflecting intact the authorities' will. The editorial says that several factors make the prospects of the forthcoming talks gloomy. One of these factors is that we dragged in Reverend Moon Sun-myung and issued a joint statement and that we laid a wreath at the tomb of Mr. Yo Un-yong, father of Vice Chairwoman Yo Yon-ku. Hidden in this is the intent to create obstacles to the talks by making an excuse.

As for Moon Sun-myung's visit to the North, he is a septuagenarian compatriot living overseas. He wanted to visit his native home. Thus, his visit was realized purely because of humanitarianism. The joint statement, which he issued with us, merely contains his aspiration as a civilian for peace and the peaceful reunification of the nation. How can the intent to achieve the nation's peaceful reunification without interference of outside forces and to oppose war be branded as bad?

On the occasion of visiting Seoul to attend the second round of the seminar on peace in Asia and women's role, Vice Chairwoman Yo Yon-ku laid a wreath, which contained great trust and love, at her father's tomb. This means the fulfillment of obligation as daughter. The act of slandering and defaming the visit of a daughter to her father's tomb is a rash, rude act unprecedented in our forefathers' era.

In order to foster distrust and confrontation between the North and the South, the South Korean authorities are scheming to infringe upon traditional customs, the rules of etiquette, and even our people's trust.

What is further deplorable is that the editorial raves that one should assume a new attitude about the forthcoming talks and strongly calls for acceptance of nuclear inspection while talking about the North's nuclear development, the nation's existence, and so forth. This is indeed a foolish trick revealing the South side's insidious intention to banish the North-South high-level talks themselves.

The South Korean authorities are well aware that we declared many times that we have no intention of developing nuclear weapons nor do we have the ability to do so. While concealing the fact that more than 1,000 U.S. nuclear weapons are deployed in South Korea, they slandered us, who have neither the intention nor the ability to develop nuclear weapons. This means that they are attempting to search our pockets by using other people's hands. This is an act to conquer us with threats and intimidation.

On the streets along which our female delegation was returning to Pyongyang after visiting Seoul on 29 November, the South Korean authorities put out large placards reading "We urge the early opening of North Korean society!" and "Let us achieve national reunification by opening the North Korean society!" This act is closely related to the current HANGUK ILBO editorial.

Indeed, this is a plot of the South Korean authorities to eradicate our society, which is firmly united, and the socialism of our own style, which is the most superior in the world, in the way of absorption, just as West Germany conquered [*mogochiuda*] East Germany, after reducing us to frailty [*humulhumlhage mandulda*] either by means of war or by infusing the wind of freedom.

Today the South Korean authorities are obviously attempting to search for excuses for breaking the North-South high-level talks. We are also aware that the United States is instigating the South Korean authorities in various ways.

However, if the South Korean authorities do not want to be denounced as nation-sellers who are maintaining their lives by depending on outside forces, they should look straight at the realities and behave correctly.

Japan Urged To Compensate for Past War Actions

SK0812083991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0811 GMT 8 Dec 91

["Japan Should Sincerely Repent of What She Had Done Against Asian Nations"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 8 (KCNA)—If Japan is to liquidate her past wrongs she should sincerely repent and compensate all the countries and peoples for what they had suffered from her past aggression and war, says NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article titled

"Japan's Aggression on Asia and the Question of Her Apology", carried on the 50th anniversary of the start of the Pacific war by Japan.

The article reads in part:

It is an act against humanism and peace that Japan which had inflicted big disasters upon Asian nations has not officially expressed her responsibility and intention of apology for the past war and colonial domination up until now, nearly half a century since the war. Germany, as a defeated nation which had unleashed the Second World War and brought untold calamities to other nations, has already apologized and compensated the victimized countries.

Japan, however, is not going to sincerely repent of her past aggressive acts, but rather trying to cover up and erase them in history. A typical instance of it is the malrevision of history textbooks and the propaganda campaign to beautify the past aggressive war.

Under such circumstances, it is inevitable that the Asian peoples who still remember with bitter feelings the atrocities committed by Japan during the wartime will never be able to dispel distrust and doubts about Japan, no matter how loudly the Japanese authorities may talk about "solidarity with Asian nations", "peace", "friendship" and the like.

Though Japan is now talking that she is "reflecting" on the past, she has not abandoned her dream of regaining her old position as the dominator of Asia. This is borne out by her arms buildup aimed at becoming a military power and by the approval of a bill on the dispatch overseas of the "Self-Defence Forces". This is a factor of the Asian people's deep-rooted distrust in Japan.

If she is to alleviate the Asian people's anti-Japanese sentiments, get reconciled with them and win their trust, Japan should repent of the past with sincerity.

The article further says:

Unless Japan makes a clean slate of her past woven with crimes against Korea, Japan's history of aggression on Asia cannot be said to have come to an end. It is very wrong both from the political and moral point of view that Japan has delayed the liquidation of the past against the Korean people up until now.

Japan's apology and compensation to Korea are a touchstone showing whether it is sincerely reflecting on her past aggressive acts in Asia or not.

Normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan means Japan's settling the last postwar problem and it will mark an important occasion for Japan to clearly liquidate her historical mistakes and develop new friendly and cooperative relations with the Asian nations on the principle of complete equality and mutual respect.

Kim Il-song Gives On-the-Spot Guidance

SK1112050591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song guided on the spot the work in different fields of the national economy in South Hamgyong Province from November 27 to December 7.

He was accompanied by Yon Hyong-muk, Yi Chong-ok, Han Song-yong, Choe Yong-nim, Hong Si-hak, So Kwan-hui and Kim Hwan.

President Kim Il-song looked round the Hungnam fertilizer complex where the project of introducing large-size and modern equipment was successfully completed and its commissioning was at hand. The giant large-size and modern fertilizer production process built at the complex is one more proud creation made in the era of the Workers Party with our own design, technology, materials, equipment and on our own efforts. This project represented a new big technical transformation undertaking for replacing all the fertilizer production processes with highly efficient and automated equipment on the basis of the latest science and technology. The successful introduction of large-size and modern equipment of the world's standards at the complex has made it possible to significantly raise the fertilizer production capacity, enabled our workers to work joyously, with production culture guaranteed and helped further augment our economic might and bring about a new turn in rapidly developing agricultural production.

Our workers and builders wrought such a miracle as successfully finishing in just three months the project for introducing large and modern equipment at the complex, the project as vast as building a large fertilizer factory, under the slogan "When the party is determined, we can do anything!" by fully displaying the intense loyalty to the party and the leader and the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle.

Acquainting himself in detail with the mechanism and efficiency of the equipment including the large compounding tanker and 4,000 hp compressors, and the achievements made in their manufacture and building, President Kim Il-song expressed deep satisfaction with the successful production and operation of equipment.

Noting that the successful manufacture of the large and modern equipment at the Hungnam fertilizer complex with their own efforts and technology in a short of time is something to be greatly proud of, he said that this is because our independent economic foundation is very strong and the strength of our workers who remain boundlessly faithful to the party and the revolution is inexhaustible and thanks to this great strength, our people successfully carry out any difficult tasks.

Saying that with chemical fertilizer production expected to increase it has become possible to effect a new turn in the agricultural production in the future and successfully realize the centuries old desire of our people to be better fed and clad and live in better houses, he gave highly important teachings which will serve as a guideline in sharply increasing the fertilizer production through a better management and operation of the factory.

He congratulated the builders upon their labour feats performed in the project for introducing large and modern equipment in the complex and posed a photograph with them.

President Kim Il-song then convened consultative meetings of different domains and put forward the tasks before various fields of the national economy in the province.

He underscored the need to further develop the chemical industry.

Noting that fertilizer, vinalon and vinyl chloride are very important for the nation's economic development, he said sustained big efforts should be directed to the development of the chemical industry in order to find a satisfactory solution to this problem.

As the project for introducing large and modern equipment in the Hungnam fertilizer complex was completed and commissioned it is necessary to keep the fertilizer production going at a high level and, at the same time, push ahead the work to create the capacity to boost the fertilizer production, he noted.

He said that for the steady increase of the fertilizer production which is of weighty significance in the grain production, the existing fertilizer factories should be operated at full capacity and, at the same time, the construction of new fertilizer factories including the fertilizer factory at the Sunchon vinalon complex should be completed ahead of schedule.

He instructed that the February 8 vinalon complex should make energetic endeavours to keep the vinalon production going at a high level and, at the same time, concentrate efforts on the second-stage project of the oxygen plant shop to finish it in a short time and thus complete the carbide production process by means of blowing oxygen and effect a signal turn in the production of chemical goods of different kinds.

He instructed that the Sinhung chemical complex should produce more chemical goods including vinyl chloride, caustic soda and pesticide and supply them to industrial and agricultural domains.

One of the important tasks facing the chemical industry is to thoroughly establish cultured ways in production to always provide the workers with hygienic and cultured environment, he said.

Putting forward task to increase aquatic products, he said that in order to supply the people with fresh fish all the year round it is necessary to conduct well small-scale fishing and sea cultivation along with pelagic and deep-sea fishing.

President Kim Il-song called for bringing about a new turn in the agricultural production.

He said that the chuche-based farming method whose might has been clearly proved in practice should be thoroughly implemented to rapidly increase the agricultural production on the basis of the superiority of our socialist agricultural system with firm material and technical foundations.

Saying that our heroic workers and other working people are now working one new miracle after another in every part of the country by accelerating the vigorous advance of the socialist construction in the same indomitable revolutionary spirit as was displayed in the period of the post-war rehabilitation and construction, President Kim Il-song called on them to bring about once again a great upsurge on all fronts of the socialist construction with the same vim and vigour and thus fully demonstrate the might of our own people-centred socialism.

South Korea

First Day of Fifth North-South Talks Reported

Prime Minister Presents Proposal

SK1112031491 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0200 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] At the first day open session of the fifth North-South high-level talks today, the North and South prime ministers revealed their respective positions on the document of agreement on the nuclear issue, which is the greatest pending issue, reconciliation, nonaggression, exchanges, and cooperation between the North and the South.

In his keynote speech, Prime Minister Chong Won-sik proposed to the North Korean side that a joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and on other issues be adopted. He also proposed that both the North and South sides sign the Nuclear Safeguards Accord by abiding by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and accept full-scale nuclear inspection of all nuclear facilities and nuclear materials in each side's area.

The draft joint declaration for denuclearization presented by Prime Minister Chong Won-sik prescribes that the North and the South should use nuclear energy only for peaceful objectives, and should not manufacture, possess, store, deploy, or use nuclear weapons. In particular, the draft stresses that the two sides should not possess nuclear reprocessing facilities or enriched uranium facilities.

The draft joint declaration for denuclearization also has the provision that the North and the South actively participate in international efforts to totally eliminate chemical and biological weapons and that the two sides inspect military facilities and civilian facilities in the North and the South in the manner agreed on by both sides, apart from the inspection of nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

In terms of inspection, Prime Minister Chong Won-sik said that if the North side wants, facilities and bases of U.S. troops in the ROK can be included and that through such inspection, the existence of nuclear weapons can be confirmed. He proposed that upon reaching an agreement on abolishing nuclear reprocessing facilities between the North and the South, the two sides conduct simultaneous inspection on military and civilian facilities which each side chooses from the other side's area. Prime Minister Chong Won-sik said that our side wants to choose the Sunchon airfield and nuclear facilities in Yongbyon in the North side as objects for model inspection and that the North side can assume the Kunsan airfield and other military facilities in our side as objects of inspection. He expressed the hope that the model inspection on each side be implemented before 31 January 1992.

Offers Inspection of U.S. Bases

SK1112043091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0333 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (YONHAP)—South Korea is prepared to open U.S. military installations and bases in its territory for North Korea's inspection if North Korea agrees on a simultaneous inspection of nuclear facilities in the North, Prime Minister Chong Won-sik said Wednesday.

In the most concrete offer ever made on nuclear issues pertaining to the divided peninsula, Chong told the fifth round of inter-Korean high-level political talks that South Korea could inspect Sunchon airfield and facilities in Yongbyon in the North for pilot nuclear inspection.

"We hope that it will be possible to conduct such pilot inspections by January 31, 1992. If your side agrees to our offer, we propose that experts from both sides meet as quickly as possible to discuss and determine what should be inspected and how."

Chong made the proposal along with a "joint declaration for a non-nuclear Korean peninsula," an obvious confirmation of President No Tae-u's declaration on "non-nuclear Korea" on Nov. 8 and an invitation to North Korea to join No's efforts.

Both declarations prescribe that use of nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes, prohibition of manufacturing, possessing, storing, deploying or using nuclear weapons, non-possession of nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment facilities, and active participation in international efforts for total elimination of chemical and biological weapons, observance of international agreements.

Chong's keynote speech also contained a 28-article draft agreement on several compromises of the South for reconciliation and non-aggression with North Korea.

The first four articles are: The two sides shall respect each other's political and social system: Both shall not interfere in each other's internal affairs: Both shall not slander and vilify each other: And both shall not attempt in any manner to sabotage and subvert the other.

The South also proposed the establishment of a political subcommittee, a military subcommittee, and an exchanges and cooperation subcommittee, within the framework of the high-level talks, accepting the North's offers, made in the fourth talks in Pyongyang Oct. 23-24, with modifications.

The political subcommittee could be established within the framework of the high-level talks to discuss detailed steps of implementing and observing accords on reconciliation, the Southern premier said.

The North had offered to form the committee within two months, but the South's proposal advanced it by one month.

South Korea suggested a military subcommittee be established within one month after the two sides ratified the accords on reconciliation, non-aggression, and exchange and cooperation.

The subcommittee could discuss concrete measures to ensure the implementation and observance of accords on South-North non- aggression and various additional military matters involved in resolving military confrontation, the draft said.

At the fourth talks, the South proposed to set up a military subcommittee within six months whereas the North offered to form a "joint military committee" in two months.

The South also asked for establishment of a subcommittee for exchanges and cooperation within one month after the agreement's ratification.

In the fourth talks, the South offered the creation of a committee for travel, telecommunications, trade and economic cooperation within six months: The North proposed a committee for cooperation and exchange within two months.

While making conciliatory advances, South Korea reiterated most of its long-standing demands including the establishment of liaison offices. In the fourth talks, the South offered the offices be opened in Seoul and Pyongyang and in the latest talks it suggested to open the office first at the truce village of Panmunjom within two months after ratifying the agreement and later in each other's capital.

'Texts' of Sides' Draft Declarations

SK1112092691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0900 GMT 11 Dec 91

["Nuclear Declarations (Text)"—YONHAP headline]

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (YONHAP)—Following are the texts of the draft declarations on nuclear problems on the Korean peninsula delivered by South Korean Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk on the first-day session of the fifth inter-Korean prime ministers' talks Wednesday in Seoul.

Joint Declaration for a Non-Nuclear Korean Peninsula (South)

The South and the North will strive to create an environment favorable to the peaceful reunification of the homeland and to contribute to peace in Asia and throughout the world by securing a nuclear-free Korean peninsula and eliminating chemical and biological weapons from our land.

The South and the North will abide by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and conclude a nuclear safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and accept full-scope international inspection of all nuclear-related facilities and materials in their respective areas.

In addition to discharging their existing international obligations, the South and the North declare as follows:

1. The South and the North will use nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes, and do not manufacture, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons.

2. The South and the North will not possess nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment facilities.

3. The South and the North will actively participate in international efforts for total elimination of chemical and biological weapons and abide by international agreements in this area.

4. Separately from IAEA inspection of their nuclear facilities and materials, the South and the North will implement inspections of any military and any civilian facility, material and site in the South and the North, in a manner to be agreed upon by both sides, in order to confirm compliance with the above items. These facilities and sites will be selected by the inspecting side, respectively.

5. The South and the North will discuss and decide on details of the implementation of item 4 by procedures to be established through agreement between the two sides.

Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula (North)

In order to remove the danger of nuclear war from the Korean peninsula once and for all, to contribute to the peace of our country and to the security of Asia and the rest of the world and to create favourable preconditions for the peaceful reunification of the country, the North and the South declare as follows:

Article 1. The North and the South do not test, manufacture, introduce, possess and use nuclear arms.

Article 2. The North and the South prohibit the deployment of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula and in its territory and the passage, landing and call of aircraft and warships which are or might be loaded with nuclear weapons through or in its airspace or territorial waters.

Article 3. The North and the South do not conclude any agreement with foreign countries, which allows the deployment and stockpile of nuclear weapons in their regions and which accepts the offer of a "nuclear umbrella."

Article 4. The North and the South do not conduct any war exercise under the simulated conditions of a nuclear war in which nuclear weapons and equipment are mobilized on the Korean peninsula and in its territory.

Article 5. The North and the South make joint efforts to withdraw U.S. nuclear weapons deployed and U.S. troops stationed in the South of the Korean peninsula and to dismantle nuclear bases.

Article 6. The North and the South jointly verify the total and complete withdrawal of U.S. nulcear weapons and the removal of nuclear bases in the South of the Korean peninsula, discharge the duty of simultaneous nuclear inspection as required by the international treaty, and publish at home and abroad the declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Article 7. The North and the South take an external measure so that the United States and the nuclear-possessing nations around the Korean peninsula may not pose a nuclear threat against our country but respect the status of the denuclearized Korean peninsula.

Article 8. The North and the South form a joint organization to carry into effect this declaration in a short of time after the publication of declaration.

Article 9. This declaration will take effect as from the day when the North and the South exchange its texts after going through the necessary formalities.

All U.S. Nuclear Arms Said Removed

SK1112091091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0854 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (OANA-YONHAP)—The United States has removed all of its nuclear weapons from South Korea, a ranking government official said Wednesday.

"Our proposal to include Kunsan Airbase, where North Korea insists the United States stored its nuclear arsenal, in pilot simultaneous nuclear inspection with North Korea emphasizes the fact that there are no longer nuclear weapons at the American base," he said.

South Korean Foreign Minister Chong Won-sik earlier suggested in talks with his North Korean counterpart that the two Koreas conduct simultaneous inspections of military facilities selected by the other side.

"We wish to choose Sunchon airfield and the facilities at Yongbyon for pilot inspection. Your side may choose Kunsan Airbase or other military and civilian facilities for the pilot inspection project," Chong said.

Chong said the South would be ready to allow a North Korean inspection by Jan. 31, suggesting that the nuclear withdrawal was already complete.

Officials have been hinting that South Korea would announce in one form or another the absence of nuclear weapons on its soil since the Sept. 28 announcement by U.S. President George Bush of the removal of all tactical weapons deployed overseas.

"...we are prepared to include U.S. military installations and bases in the South on the list of facilities for inspection so that you can verify whether or not nuclear weapons are deployed here," Chong said.

If the North Koreans inspect Kunsan Airbase, it will be the first ever opening of U.S. military facilities overseas.

Spokesmen Brief Press on Talks

SK1112090291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0844 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean Government denied Wednesday the possibility of North Korea having direct talks with the United States on nuclear issues.

"Inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency is unconditional and not a matter for consultation between South and North Korea or with a third country," Yi Tong-pok, spokesman for the South Korean delegation, said Wednesday in briefing journalists on the first-day session of the fifth round of inter-Korean prime ministers talks.

North Korea's demands regarding the nuclear issue were met by South Korea's "non-nuclear Korea" initiative of early November and if North Korea accepted this it would be able to confirm whether U.S. nuclear weapons were in the South, he said.

North Korea's reaction to Prime Minister Chong Won-sik's proposal for pilot nuclear inspections would be the touchstone of Pyongyang's intentions, Yi said.

An Pyong-su, spokesman for the North Korean delegation, said that North Korea would allow international nuclear inspections if the United States began to pull its nuclear weapons out of the peninsula.

"North Korea wants to be notified of the withdrawal by South Korea and the United States first. In that case, we will promptly open the way for nuclear inspection," An said.

He hinted at Pyongyang's wish to open direct talks with Washington, stressing that the issue of nuclear inspection could not be solved by one-sided declarations alone.

"It should certainly be preceded by (our) discussions with South Korea and the United States," An said.

If South Korea holds the annual joint military exercise "Team Spirit" with the United States next year, it would be crucially detrimental to the holding of the sixth and seventh rounds of inter-Korean talks, An said.

Russian Parliament Head on Republic's Leadership

SK1112025491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0240 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (OANA-YONHAP)—Russia was the real political, economic and diplomatic representative of the Soviet Union, Russian parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov told South Korean political and economic leaders Wednesday.

Russia's central bank would handle all financial matters of the Soviet Union and represent the rest of the republics and Russian president Boris Yeltsin had begun to handle the financial matters himself, he said.

Khasbulatov said he would convene parliament as soon as he returned to ratify the agreement on a commonwealth of independent states among Russia, the Ukraine and Belarus.

All Soviet ambassadors, including Oleg Sokolov in South Korea, now represented Russia and only the technical problem of changing their credentials remained, he said.

Sokolov, who was sitting at his side, did not make any comment.

Khasbulatov said he and President No Tae-u had discussed Seoul's material aid to Russia in detail.

Khasbulatov, who arrived Sunday at the invitation of National Assembly Speaker Pak Chon-kyu, leaves the country Wednesday afternoon.

Seoul Asks Burma To End Dissident's Detention

SK1012053091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0503 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government recently asked Burma to lift the house arrest of dissident leader Aung San Suu Kyi so that she could go to Oslo to receive her Nobel Peace Prize award, a Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday.

The government delivered its position to U Tin Winn, Burma's ambassador to Korea, he said.

Suu Kyi, daughter of the late Aung San, was chosen winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize by the Norwegian parliament in October. Her family accepted the award Tuesday on her behalf.

* Conservatives Viewed as Mainstream of Power

922C0029A Seoul SISA JOURNAL in Korean No 104 24 Oct 91 pp 16-17

[Article by reporter So Myong-suk: "There Is Power Where There Are Conservatives"]

[Text] As the DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] and the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) gain power, the influence of progressive forces outside the establishment as well as of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) is waning.

As in the past, the public is very sensitive to any shift in the power that rules society. The jokes about the dynamics of power which circulated in the streets in the past, such as "A Military Academy diploma is above a doctorate; the NSP is above the Military Academy; the Madame is above the NSP" [paksa wie yuksa, yuksa wie poansa, poansa wie yosa], are the products of this sensitive concern. This kind of joke which reflects the realities of the groups which dominate society and the dynamics of their relative influence is coined one after another interminably.

SISA JOURNAL conducted a survey under the title "Who Is Running Korea?" once each year in the past three years by sending out the questionnaires to selected groups of experts and ordinary citizens asking what groups or organizations in their opinion are running the country. The answers to the questions have shown a subtle difference gradually from year to year, pointing indirectly to the changes that have been taking place in the forces that drive our society.

Needless to say, it can hardly be said that the findings of these surveys completely identify the forces who run this society and reflect their relative strength. This is because there could be a considerable gap between the forces which experts and the general public "think" are running our society and the forces that "are actually running" it. Nevertheless, these surveys provide a clue to forecasting possible structural changes in our society as well as changes within the organizations which run our society.

DLP Identified as "Most Powerful Organization" Two Years in a Row

The DLP was identified as "the most powerful force" in this year's survey as in the last, polled by both the group of experts (33.5 percent) and ordinary citizens (50.5 percent). The percentages are relatively smaller this year compared with last year (see the table). But, when the percentages for "political parties" (16.3 percent of the experts and 6.6 percent of the ordinary citizens polled) are factored in, the percentages for the DLP will be somewhat higher.

This finding may be taken for granted because the DLP is the party in power in a parliamentary democracy. The present status of the government party represents a great change when we recall that in the first survey conducted in the year this journal was founded, only 11.9 percent of the respondents identified the government party as the most powerful force, and thus the government party ranked ninth in terms of power. The percentage figure vividly reflects the status of the DJP [Democratic Justice Party] in those days. Owing to the phenomenon of the opposition parties being in the majority in the National Assembly as a result of the 13th general election, the DJP was in such a dire crisis that it was on the verge of losing its very existence as the government party and was tormented by a sense of incompetence, being pushed around by the administration even in the party-government consultative meetings.

With the inauguration of the DLP in February 1990 and the drastic reorganization of the conservative political forces in its wake, the government party began to regain the political initiative last year. This year it achieved its "intended political goal" by scoring landslide victories in the base-level and municipal/provincial level elections exceeding all expectations. Despite the intraparty squabble over the issue of choosing the candidate for the presidential race, the DLP won an unprecedented landslide victory even in Seoul, Pusan, and South Kyongsang Province buoyed by the lower rate of the voter turnout and the public interest in stability, although it was not sure of victory in these areas in its pre-election projection. It is the consensus opinion of political observers that through these election victories, the DLP built a strong foundation of its political infrastructures. The outcome of the latest survey seems to have been influenced by the thought that the DLP is the most influential party which will take the lead in the four major elections scheduled for next year and produce the next president.

The fact that the general public, that is, the electorate, give more weight to the influence of the DLP than the groups of experts do, is worthy of attention in connection with next year's elections.

The organization that has emerged as the second most influential force after the DLP is the FKI. The FKI, which marks its 30th founding anniversary this year, is a representative private business organization consisting of 461 corporations with an annual gross sale of 60 billion won or more. But, in substance it is led by the major chaebol, big money interests. Including the percentage (6.6 percent) of experts choosing "chaebol," 37.5 percent in all chose chaebol groups as one of the three groups which the expert group thinks are running the country. This graphically indicates the magnitude of the influence the plutocrats wield in our society.

Naturally, the chaebol wielded great influence under the Third and Fifth Republics, which gave the highest priority to economic growth. But, it was the fact that chaebol groups were "fostered" by the powers that be, and they were so subservient to power that some of them were "disintegrated in the air" at the whim of those in power. But, as they accumulated an enormous wealth during the boom boosted by the three lows [low wages, the low won, and low cost], they gained a considerable measure of staying power and dynamism. They began to speak their minds in the political world which needed an enormous amount of campaign funds for the 1987 presidential election and the various other elections which followed. In this process, an atmosphere was created in which financiers back up those in power on a selective basis. This explains how the current tax investigations by the government of the Hyundai Group and some other family holding companies are interpreted as a conflict between the those in power and the financial interests.

Nevertheless, only 10.1 percent of the ordinary citizens polled took note of the influence of the financial interests (6.3 percent for the FKI, 2.2 percent for Hyundai, and 1.6 percent for big corporations). On the contrary, the opposition parties (22.2 percent) and the National Council of College Representatives (Chondaehyop) (11 percent) are chosen as the most influential groups after the DLP. This shows that there is a large gap between "the perception of reality" by the general public and that by the expert group. Presumably, this gap may reflect to a certain degree the expectations held by the public for the role of the opposition parties and the campus movement. It is hard to say which perception reflects reality more accurately, but we may safely say that the expert group, which is relatively closer to the power center, has grasped the changes more promptly and more sensitively.

The military is regarded as the fifth most influential group (with 13.5 percent) by the expert group, indicating that the military still remains an influential power. Interestingly, this figure represents a marked drop compared with the outcome of the 1989 survey, in which 41.1 percent of the group of experts polled mentioned the military as one of the top three influential groups. In the eyes of the general public, the ranking of the military dropped below the 10th position (by polling only 1.3 percent).

The military, which produced three presidents over the past 30 years, has been such a strong power group that there was even the joke that "if you have a son, send him to the Military Academy." The drop in ranking of the military in the poll stems primarily from the changes in the domestic and international situations, such as the progress in North-South relations and the collapse of East-West cold-war relations. In this connection, we need to recall that this was the first year that those military-related problems which were previously regarded as a sanctuary, such as the questions concerning a possible reduction of the military budget and the number of general officers, have ever been "debated" in the National Assembly. It is the consensus among political scientists that the influence of the military will continue to slide within the conservative bloc.

The most striking change appearing in the latest survey is the clear decline in the influence of the forces of progressive reformist movements. In last year's survey, the experts polled placed three of the five dissident groups, namely, Chondaehyop (11.4 percent), the National Democratic Alliance of Korea (Chonminnyon) (10.4 percent), and the National Council of Trade Union Federations (Chonnohyop) (9.7 percent), among the top 10. In this year's poll, however, only the student organization remained among the top 10 (with 6.1 percent).

The decline in the influence of the progressive forces was something anticipated. Against the backdrop of the rapidly changing tide in the Soviet Union in the wake of the changes in East Europe which began last year, the influence of the activist forces which failed to present the public with a new alternative was bound to wane. In addition, these forces courted criticism against themselves by various incidents such as the throwing of eggs at Prime Minister Chon Won-sik. The general drift of society desirous of stability also operated as a compound factor for the declining influence of activist forces. Even theorists inside the progressive force share the view that as long as the activist forces are unable to do away with their dogmatism and swiftly adapt themselves to the changing international situation and the multipolarization of Korean society, their influence will continue to decline.

Waning Influence of Authoritarian Power Organs

Along with the change in the ranking of the activist forces in terms of power, the waning influence of the police and other power originations has also become evident. The NSP, which was once reputed to be "capable of shooting down even a bird flying in the air," drew attention when it ranked sixth in terms of power in the first survey conducted in the year SISA JOURNAL was founded. In the latest poll, only 5.9 percent of the experts and 2 percent of ordinary citizens polled mentioned the NSP as the powerful organization which runs this country. The same is true with Chongwadae, which was mentioned as the most powerful institute by 72.5 percent of the experts polled in January 1989, whereas only 5.1 percent of the experts polled this year identified Chongwadae as such.

Some analysts say that this does not necessarily mean an actual weakening of these institutions, however. According to them, the NSP and Chongwadae do not take the driver's seat as in the past, but exercise their powers "indirectly" in a more refined manner as they did in the course of working out the reunification policy. Anyhow, the fact that the NSP and Chongwadae no longer reflect in the eyes of the public as the major power organs is indicative of a trend that the mentality of the public is moving away from authoritarianism.

What does the outcome of the survey on the forces which are running Korea show? It shows that despite its multipolarization and industrialization, our society is firmly in the hands of conservative forces and that a progressive force or wholesome pressure group does noy yet exist that is capable of causing social changes through strife or coexistence with the conservative forces. Nevertheless, one thing is clear, that is, that our society is moving away from authoritarianism.

Name Three Groups, Organizations, or Forces Which in Your Opinion Are Running Our Country (multiple answers)

1991	
Experts	DLP 33.5%, FKI 30.9%, Parties 16.3%, Opposition Parties 15.3%, Military 13.5%, Religious Groups 9.7%, Press 8.4%, TK Group 6.6%, Chaebol 6.6%, Student Organization 6.1%
Ordinary Citizens	DLP 50.5%, Opposition Parties 22.1%, Chondaehyop 11%, Religious Group 9.3%, Parties 6.6%, FKI 6.3%, Activist Groups 3.3%, National Assembly 2.8%, Wolgyesuhoe 2.7%, TK Group 2.6%
1990	
Experts	DLP 57.1%, PPD 26.9%, FKI 26.1%, Chondaehyop 11.4%, Chonminnyon 10.4%, Chonnohyop 9.7%, Military 9%, Religious Groups 5.1%, Press 5%, TK Group 4.8%
1989	
Experts	Chongwadae 72.5%, Chaebol (including FKI) 42.4%, Military 41.1%, Press 26.5%, Executive Branch 17.9%, NSP 15.2%, Student Forces 13.9%, National Assembly 13.6%, Government Party 11.9%, U.S. 10.9%

* Top 10 Political Figures Identified

922C0030A Seoul SISA JOURNAL in Korean No 104, 24 Oct 91 pp 10-14

[Public opinion survey conducted jointly by SISA JOURNAL and Korea Research Center]

[Text] When we list the most powerful personages in our country in the order of their importance, they are: President No Tae-u, DP [Democratic Party] Co-Chairman Kim Tae-chung, DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] Chairman Kim Yong-sam, Chong Chu-yong, honorary chairman of the Hyundai Group, Cardinal Kim Su-hwan, and Minister of Sports Pak Chol-on. That is what people believe regardless of the actual power and influence these figures have.

According to the third public opinion survey conducted this year by SISA JOURNAL since its founding, under the title "Who are running Korea?" both experts and ordinary citizens placed the same personages from the first to seventh in the ranking as they did last year, but there was much change in the order between the seventh through the 10th. The group of expert pollees listed Yu Chang-sun, chairman of the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI); Kim U-chung, chairman of the Daewoo Group; Kim Tong-il, former Yonsei University professor; and Pak Tae-chun, member of the DLP Supreme Council, in that order. On the other hand, ordinary citizens listed DLP Supreme Council members Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun; and former professor Kim Tong-il from the seventh to the ninth rank, and placed Chairman Kim U-song in the 10th.

To say that a certain person is influential is not to say that he plays a decisive role in decision making. Of course, the supposed influence he has does not necessarily reflect his credibility. Generally speaking, however, a person believed to be influential is invariably capable of making the public lean toward what he advocates by shaping public opinion, even if he does not have political or financial clout. His statements and actions mirror the demands of the public and the pressure of the press. In the case of a politician, when he is believed to be influential, he can move the tide in his favor and funnel more political money into his campaign chest. This is to say that the popular rating of one's influence is closely linked to one's political standing.

JP [Kim Chong-pil] Drops Out of Top 10

The public overwhelmingly listed President No Tae-u as the most influential person (experts 78.1 percent, ordinary citizens 56.3 percent), and this is quite a natural thing in a country under a presidential form of government. Even so, the outcome of the poll is of great significance. If a person other than the president were regarded as the most influential person, it would mean that the president would become a figurehead president incapable of properly exercising his executive power, and this would directly lead to political and social instability. DP Co-Chairman Kim Tae-chung ranked second (experts 45.4 percent, general public 34.1 percent). This result is tantamount to the acknowledgement of the existence of the first opposition party and may be a reflection of demands for reform in various fields. Most probably, the appraisal of Kim Tae-chung's influence has something to do with his personal charisma.

To be sure, Kim Tae-chung is exercising his influence over politics and government as President No Tae-u's most important political partner. Only a short while ago, when the political outlook was murky, Kim Tae-chung, in the eyes of the public looked such a powerful political figure that they believed that he held the key to realizing the merger of the opposition parties and revising the constitution to pave the way for the introduction of a cabinet form of government. Commenting on this appraisal, Kim Tae-chung said in an interview by SISA JOURNAL: "It is an overestimate."

DLP Chairman Kim Yong-sam ranked third (experts 29.9 percent, ordinary citizens 29.6 percent). It may be considered natural that the chairman of the ruling party ranked high in terms of power of influence. Compared with last year, his ranking in influence changed only slightly this year with a 3.7 percent increase in the opinion of the expert group and a 5 percent decline in the opinion of the general public. According to experts, the fact that the DLP chairman, who is aiming at the next presidency, ranks high in influence may be a good "signal" for him. This also applies to DP Co-Chairman Kim Tae-chung. On the other hand, Kim Chong-pil, DLP Supreme Council member, dropped out of the top 10 in the poll of experts this year, although he ranked seventh in the poll of the general public. This contrasts last year's poll in which experts and the general public placed him seventh and sixth, respectively.

As in last year's poll, Cardinal Kim Su-hwan ranked fifth this year, but the rating of his power of influence this year dropped 7.2 percentage points in the poll of experts. In 1989 he ranked second (with 70 percent) after President No. The extent of political power he can wield with the backing of the Catholic world is so limited that he cannot even appoint a police substation chief. But his influence stems from his high standard of morality. The decrease in his influence as reflected in the poll may indicate that the political and social chaos and the unease of the public have relatively lessened. It may be said that the demand for his voice is proportional to the general sense of crisis.

Although he raised his voice in the chaotic period under the authoritarian rule, Cardinal Kim is now said very wary of making any political statement. The fact that he still ranks fifth may be a welcome sign because even in the period in which there is less political and social chaos, people still uphold him as their spiritual prop.

Kim Tong-kil Ranks Ninth, Three Businessmen Named

Sports Minister Pak Chol-on is apparently regarded as a person to be reckoned with, in view of the fact that he ranks sixth in both the expert and general public polls. The poll shows something different from the opinion of him in the political world. His influence is said to have declined sharply since he was defeated in the power struggle which erupted between him and DLP Chairman Kim Yong-sam in 1989 while serving as minister of state following the three-party merger.

It is also interesting to note that Kim Tong-kil, former Yonsei University professor, ranked ninth in the poll of both experts and the general public. He is a "new man" because only one or two years ago, he was little known. He is very popular among students, college graduates and people with a higher educational background, people in the administrative and managerial field, and people in their 40's. In the past, he expressed his candid views in newspapers, magazines and on TV, and the poll reflects the popularity he has gained through this process.

What is worthy of note in the latest poll is the emergence of businessmen. Chong Chu-yong, honorary chairman of the Hyundai Group, ranked fourth in the poll of both experts and the general public. Setting aside this fact, Yu Chang-sun, chairman of the FKI, ranked seventh (which he shared with another person) for the first time (in the poll of experts), and Kim U-chung, chairman of the Daewoo Group, rose to seventh this year from the 10th last years (in the poll of experts). This points to the growing influence of the business community. The big scandals involving businessmen, like the Suso scandal, may in a way reflect this increasing influence.

Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, the No 2 man in the administration, shared the l0th rank with another person in the general public poll, but ranked 15th in the poll of experts. The result shows that he does not seem to be the prime minister with real power. DLP Secretary General Kim Yun-hwan, who is known among political circles as a man with real power, ranked 13th in the poll of experts and 15th in the poll of ordinary citizens. His popularity seems to be low compared with the extent of influence he actually wields. Assemblyman Yi Chong-chan, who attracts attention as a possible candidate for the presidency, ranked 15th in the poll of ordinary people and was not even mentioned in the poll of experts.

Chief Justice, National Assembly Speaker Not Mentioned in Poll

It is customary in the United States that the Speaker of the House and the Chief Justice, and the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board are identified among the 10 most influential persons in popularity polls. But, in our country, not only Kim Kon, president of the Bank of Korea, but also National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu and Chief Justice Kim Tok-chu among the heads of the three branches of government are not mentioned in the poll. This is indicative of the status of the National Assembly speaker and the president of the Bank of Korea in terms of their independent power.

Which organizations are running our country? In response to this question, the group of experts named the DLP, the FKI, the opposition parities, the military, religious organizations, and the press, whereas ordinary citizens named the DLP, the opposition, Chondaehyop, religious organizations, the FKI, and activist groups. (See Table 2) This indicates that there is a marked gap between experts and the general public in their judgment of the influence of various organizations.

Experts in particular are quick to perceive changes in the influence of various groups resulting from social and political changes. The general public gives more weight to feelings and sentiment in making judgments, and their judgments reflect their wishes. Experts analyze things in accordance with their theorizing and reasoning power and on the basis of what knowledge they have. The former tend to rely on published information, whereas the latter make their judgment on the basis of more substantive information. Ordinary people's opinions are in line with the thoughts of the multitude, whereas experts' judgments are accurate. Experts are not only sensitive to changes but also understand power in more concrete terms.

U.S. President Bush Ranks 15th

Who exercises influence in the president's decision making. Answering this question, experts and ordinary people named Sports Minister Pak Chol-on (10.9 percent) and DLP Chairman Kim Yong-sam (16.3 percent), respectively, at the top. In Minister Pak's case, his ranking in influence dropped (18.9 percent) from last year.

Experts also named Chong Hae-chang, presidential secretary general; Kim Yong-sam, chairman of the DLP Chairman; Kim Chong-in, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs; So Tong-kwon, director of the NSP; Son Chu-hwan, senior presidential secretary for political affairs; and Kim Tae-chung, co-chairmen of the DP. Ordinary citizens, on the other hand, named Pak Chol-on, Kim Tae-chung, Chong Won-sik, Chong hae-chang, Pak Tae-chun, Kim Chong-pil, and the first lady Kim Ok-suk, in addition to Kim Yong-sam.

Presidential Secretary General Chong Hae-chang made a strong showing in the poll of businessmen (with 25.5 percent). In identifying persons who influence the president, experts in general seems to base their judgments on those closest to the president, whereas ordinary citizens used popularity as the basis for their judgments. It is interesting to note that although he was not included in the top ten, President Bush was mentioned in the poll (15th and 12th, in the poll of experts and ordinary citizens, respectively).

Which organizations are exercising influence in the president's decision making? Experts ranked the Chongwade Secretariat first (30.2 percent) and the DLP second (12.7 percent), whereas ordinary pollees ranked the DLP first (33.4 percent) and the Chongwadae Secretariat second (5.9 percent). Compared with last year, the first and second places remained the same, but this year the influence of the Chongwadae Secretariat increased while that of the DLP decreased.

DJ's [Kim Tae-chung] Feat in Opposition Merger Recognized

As in last year's survey, in this year's survey many said that the NSP has great influence (third place in the experts' poll and fifth in the poll of ordinary citizens). Experts ranked the Taegu-Kyongbuk (TK) Group sixth as they did last year. It is interesting to note that in the previous polls, ordinary people did not even mention this group, but this year they ranked it seventh. This indicates that the general public has become more aware of the influence of the TK group.

Who as a politician has contributed most to political developments this year? Experts named Kim Tae-chung (10.9 percent) and No Tae-u (7.1 percent), Kim Yong-sam (6.1 percent), Yi Ki-taek (3.8 percent), Yi Pu-yong (3.1 percent) in that order. It seems that pollees ranked Kim Tae-chung at the top because they acknowledged his efforts in achieving the opposition merger.

Yi Ki-taek, co-chairman of the DP, and Yi Pu-yong, DP Supreme Council member, were placed fourth and fifth, respectively, for the same reason. Kim Tae-chung, who was the NDP [New Democratic Party] president before the merger, gave up many of his vested interests in order to push for the opposition merger. Yi Ki-taek, president of the old pre-merger splinter "Democratic Party," also made his last-ditch decision to realize the opposition merger. Yi Pu-yong, then vice president of the old "Democratic Party," played a decisive role in leading his party in favor of merger with the NDP.

The fact that the three persons who were involved in the opposition merger were among the top five indicates that experts believe that the opposition merger will have an immediate impact on future political developments. The opposition merger signifies the emergence of a strong opposition party, and this of itself will help prevent the excesses of the government party and promote democratization in various fields. In addition, if we believe that politics can improve in quality only when there is room for a transfer of power from one group to another, we may say that the emergence of the unified opposition has increased the possibility of a government changeover.

Either Two Kims Favored as Next President

Ordinary citizens named President No Tae-u (14 percent), Kim Tae-chung (9.3 percent), Kim Yong-sam (6.1 percent), Pak Chan-chong (2.8 percent), and Yi Ki-taek (2.3 percent) as persons who have contributed to political developments. The placement of President No at the top may be explained in the context of the surging tide of democracy since the inauguration of the Sixth Republic. A more thoroughgoing scrutiny is needed to determine where the credit goes for the restoration of local autonomy which was realized for the first time in 30 years. However, inasmuch as it was the government that sponsored the local elections, the restoration of local autonomy must have figured largely in assessing President No's contribution to political developments. DLP General Secretary Kim Yun-hwan and assemblyman Yi Chong-chan were placed seventh in the both expert and ordinary citizen polls.

In response to the question as to who are their most favorite politicians, experts named Kim Tae-chung, Kim Yong-sam, No Mu-hyon, Yi Chong-chan, Pak Chan-chong, Yi Chol, Kim Chong-pil, Hong Sa-tok, Yi Ki-taek, and Kim Yun-hwan in that order. On the other hand, ordinary citizens named Kim Tae-chung, No Mu-hyon, Kim Yong-sam, No Tae-u, Pak Chan-chong, Pak Chol-on, Kim Chong-pil, Yi Chong-chan, Yi Ki-taek, and Hong Sa-tok, in that order.

The fact that Kim Tae-chung was ranked first by ordinary citizens as well as by experts signifies, most probably, that he has a solid constituency. In the poll of ordinary citizens, there was a marked regional difference in preference for him. He was strongly favored in the Cholla-Kwangju area (53.7 percent), whereas he polled 1.6 percent in North Kyongsang Province and Taegu and less than 5 percent in Pusan (3.4 percent). In their poll, 48.8 percent of the experts said they have no favorite among present politicians, an indication that they distrust the present political world.

In response to the question of who is the most suitable person to be elected in the next presidential election, experts named Kim Yong-sam whereas ordinary citizens named DP Co-Chairman Kim Tae-chung. It is notable, in particular, that in the poll of experts, their favorite politician (Kim Tae-chung) and the person who they think is best suitable as next president (Kim Yong-sam) are not the same. Strikingly, Professor Kim Tong-il is placed sixth, indicating the possible emergence of politicians based on popularity and popular support. Assemblyman Yi Chong-chan was placed third. Assemblyman Yi Chol, and Kim Chun-yop, former president of Koryo University, and former Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun were placed eighth, ninth, and 10th, respectively. Ordinary citizens placed Kim Tae-chung at the top, followed by Kim Yong-sam, Yi Chong-chan, Pak Chol-on, Pak Chan-chong, Kim Chong-pil, and Yi Ki-taek, in that order.

As to the question of who is qualified as president, 22.4 percent of the ordinary pollees said "None" and 27.3 percent did not answer. This indicates that about half of eligible voters are either disappointed with or reserve judgment on politicians.

The response among experts was similar, with 31.5 percent saying "None" and 23.6 percent saying they do not know or giving no answer.

Yi Chong-chan, Pak Chol-on Viewed as Next-Generation Leaders

Aside from One No and Three Kims, who are promising politicians who will be able to run Korea in the future? This is the question on the next-generation leadership. In the poll of experts, Assemblyman Yi Chong-chan, who was not even mentioned in the survey on influential politicians, was ranked at the top (with 16.3 percent) leading the rest. He was rated high among incumbent politicians (28 percent), journalists (24.3 percent), and businessmen (21.6 percent). Next came Pak Chan-chong, Pak Chol-on, Yi-chol, No Mu-hyon, Yi Ki-taek, Kim Yun-hwan, Yi Pu-yong, Pak Tae-chun, and Hong Sa-tok, in that order. Assemblyman Pak Chan-chong must have succeeded in improving his image because he was placed second despite the less favorable rating among political circles. Assemblyman Yi Chol was not even mentioned in the poll of ordinary citizens, but his potential was recognized by experts (who placed him fourth).

In the poll of ordinary citizens, Sports Minister Pak Chol-on ranked first as next-generation leader. He made a strong showing in the Kyongbuk-Taegu area (21.4 percent), among students (20 percent), and in five major cities (18.8 percent). In his case, he has been successful in managing his public image through mass media since he assumed his post as sports minister. Next came Yi Chong-chan, Yi Ki-tae, Kim Pok-tong, Pak Tae-chun, No Mu-hyon, Chang Se-tong, and Kim Yun-hwan in that order. Former NSP Director Chang Se-tong, who may seem an unlikely person to be listed at all, ranked very low with 1.1 percent. However, his rating was somewhat higher among people in their 40's (2.8 percent), people in the Cholla-Kwangju area (3.7 percent), people with a monthly income of 1.51 million won or more (2.3 percent), and people in the sales and service fields (2.7 percent).

Those who said "None" or who did not answer the question concerning the next-generation leadership were high in percentage in the both expert and ordinary citizen polls. About half of the experts and more than half of the ordinary pollees failed to name any promising next-generation leaders.

Professor Kim Kwang-ung (of the Graduate School of Government Administration, Seoul University), said that the overall public esteem for general leaders and leading groups is low. This analysis is substantiated by the fact in the latest public opinion survey, no mention was made of those expert bureaucrats, such as the chief of the Budget Office of the Economic Planning Board, who exercise influence behind the scenes. But, mostly renowned persons were mentioned.

Table 1. Ten Persons Running ROK (a group of experts polled)

1	No Tae-u	78.1%
2	Kim Tae-chung	45.4%
3	Kim Yong-sam	29.9%
4	Chong Chu-yong	26.4%
5	Kim su-hwan	14.9%
6	Pak Chol-on	5.0%
7	Yu Chang-sun	1.8%
8	Kim U-chong	1.8%
9	Kim Tong-kil	1.3%
10	Pak Tae-chun	1.2%

Table 2. What Organizations or Agencies Exercise Influence the President's Policy Decisions?

General Public		Experts	
DLP	33.4%	Secretariat	30.2%
Secretariat	5.9%	DLP	12.7%
National Assembly	3.4%	NSP	7.1%
Political Parties	3.2%	FKI	4.1%
NSP	2.9%	Chongwadae	3.1%
Opposition Parties	2.3%	TK Group	3%
TK Group	1.2%	Aides	2.8%
Wolgyesuhoe	1.1%	Press	2.5%
Chongwadae	1.1%	Political Parties	2.0%
Advisory Organs	1.0%	Military	1.8%

Non-Government Television Begins Broadcasting

SK0912063291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0510 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 9 (YONHAP)—Seoul Broadcasting System (sbs), South Korea's third television network, started transmitting at 10 a.m. Monday on Channel Six.

Sbs, the only station not run by the government, commenced radio broadcasting on March 20 and aired test broadcasts for television from Nov. 7.

The 50-kilowatt signal can be picked up in Seoul, Kyonggi Province, and parts of North Chungchong and Kangwon Provinces.

Information Minister Choe Chang-yun and the presidents of the Korea Broadcasting System [KBS] and the Munhwa Broadcasting Co., So Ki-won and Choe Chang-pong, cut the ribbon at 9:45 and the first program, titled "Birth, sbs TV," went on the air at 10.

A reception is scheduled for 5 p.m. at the Chamsil Gymnasium.

The last private television company, Tongyang Broadcasting Co., was merged into state-run KBS in late 1980 in a major change of the Korean media. Many broadcasters and newspapers were merged under the guidelines of the military regime led by President Chon Tu-hwan.

Burma

Student Protests at Rangoon University Continue

Troops Seal Off Campus

BK1112041891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0403 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Bangkok, Dec 11 (AFP)—Troops were deployed Wednesday around Rangoon University following a pro-democracy rally a day earlier, according to eye-witnesses contacted from here. Police were checking identification documents of students, who were turning up for classes in reduced numbers, said by telephone the sources, who asked not to be identified.

"The troops are not sealing off the campus, as they did yesterday, (Tuesday) but standing across the street from university gates," one source said.

Some roads were closed on Wednesday. That included the portion of nearby University Avenue where pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been held under house arrest for almost two and a half years by Rangoon's ruling junta.

Official Radio Rangoon, monitored here, charged that the rally had been instigated by "some unscrupulous persons, intending to create unrest and disturb students from pursuing their studies peacefully and people from living peacefully."

Military trucks and armoured personnel carriers were patrolling streets in the Burmese capital and groups of two or three soldiers in combat gear were guarding road intersections, the sources said.

Hundreds of students, demanding the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, rallied on Rangoon University campus on Tuesday in a show of support for the jailed pro-democracy leader on the day she was officically awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo.

While there were unconfirmed reports of arrests during the demonstration, the security forces showed restraint and the protesters dispersed by themselves, the sources said.

There were no reports of demonstrators being hurt during Tuesday's rally, but Rangoon was rife with rumours that a student had been critically injured in another anti-junta incident on Monday, the sources said.

In the Monday incident leaflets, reportedly calling for nationwide pro-democracy protests, were tossed off a balcony at a university sports hall during a volleyball match.

A student was said to have been chased and surrounded by men belonging to the junta's feared Military Intelligence, the sources said. When he was caught, the soldiers beat him severely. He was later taken to a military hospital where he had been refused treatment, though he was in critical condition, according to the unconfirmed reports. Four other students were said to have been arrested.

Tuesday's rally marked the first major show of support in the Burmese capital since 46-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Burma's independence hero Aung San, was put under house arrest in July 1989.

Despite her detention, her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), swept elections in May of last year. But Burma's ruling generals, who seized power in a bloody coup in September 1988 to crush a nationwide pro-democracy movement, have refused to surrender power. [passage omitted]

Exiled Student Leader Comments

BK1112073691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0729 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Bangkok, Dec 11 (AFP)—Burmese dissident students in exile said here Wednesday they expect university students in Rangoon to hold more pro-democracy rallies in the near future.

"Students are waiting for opportunities to create more rallies inside Burma," said San Aung, a central-committee member of the Overseas National Students' Organization of Burma (ONSOB).

Hundreds of Rangoon University students demonstrated Tuesday to demand the release from house arrest of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who was officially awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo on the same day.

It was the first major show of support in the Burmese capital since Aung San Suu Kyi, 46, daughter of Burma's independent hero Aung San, was put under house arrest in July 1989.

San Aung, 26, said he did not think student disturbances "would force the military junta to hand over power" to Aung San Suu Kyi's political party, the National League for Democracy, which swept elections in May last year.

"Our group only hopes to receive more support from international democratic countries to put more pressure on the junta (to step down)," San Aung said.

Burma's ruling generals, who seized power in a bloody coup in September 1988 which crushed a nationwide democracy movement, have refused to surrender power since the election. ONSOB, formed in Bangkok about two years ago, is a non-violent student faction with about 800 members, San Aung said, adding that the group has had "secret connections" with students in Burma.

Students Arrested; Situation 'Tense'

BK1112100391 Hong Kong AFP in English 0943 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Bangkok, Dec 11 (AFP)—Burmese security forces arrested the leaders of an anti-government rally at Rangoon University when students demanded the release of detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, diplomats here said Wednesday.

The rally, on Tuesday, was the first significant show of defiance in Rangoon since the opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize-winner was first detained in July 1989.

"There was no firing but there were arrests," one diplomat closely monitoring the situation in Burma said here.

"A prison van with a dozen or more students inside was seen leaving the university at about 1:30 on Tuesday afternoon," the diplomat added. "The situation today is quiet but tense. There are rumblings in the student body."

The campus, about eight kilometres (five miles) north of the city centre, remained cordoned off by fully armed troops, the sources said.

"There is a possibilility of further student agitation," one source said.

"If there is more trouble, then the authorities might well close down the universities," another diplomat in Bangkok said.

Authorities Suspend Classes

BK1112130891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1256 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Rangoon, Dec 11 (AFP) - Students here defied Burma's military leadership for a second day Wednesday with protests at Rangoon University, which troops closed soon after the rally started, Western residents and diplomats in Bangkok said.

Troops entered the university and made arrests shortly after the protest began early Wednesday, but there were no reports of shooting, the residents said.

Authorities suspended classes and ordered students to leave the campus until further notice, they said, although there was no official confirmation that the university had been closed.

Burma's universities and colleges, shut in 1988 after students spear-headed widespread pro-democracy demonstrations in Rangoon and other cities and towns, reopened in May.

One resident said students who shouted anti-government slogans Wednesday as troops forced them out of the campus onto the city streets were seen being arrested. Troops ordered onlookers to disperse, sources said.

There was a heavy security cordon around the campus, which is about eight kilometers (five miles) north of the city center, they said.

Military vehicles and troops in full combat gear blocked the nearby street where opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi is detained under house arrest, they said.

The demonstration followed similar protests Tuesday when hundreds of students on the campus staged a rally demanding the release of Aung San Suu Kyi on the day she was officially conferred the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo.

Tuesday's demonstration was the first significant show of defiance in the Burmese capital since Aung San Suu Kyi was detained in July 1989, although there have been occasional lightning protests by small groups of youths.

At least a dozen students were arrested during Tuesday's rally and were seen being driven away in a prison van, a Bangkok-based diplomat said, but how many people were arrested Wednesday was unknown.

Students turned up for classes peacefully Wednesday although university authorities checked identity cards at the campus gates, witnesses said.

But the rally soon began and armed security forces entered the campus almost immediately, a Western resident said.

There were no immediate reports of similar protests in Mandalay, Burma's second city, or elsewhere in the country, diplomats in Bangkok said.

Exiled Burmese students and dissidents in Bangkok predicted further demonstrations against the military regime, which seized power after months of student-led pro-democracy demonstrations in 1988.

Campus unrest that year snowballed into nationwide anti-government protests that resulted in the end of 26 years of rigid socialist government.

The military then reimposed its rule after substantial loss of life in September 1988 with the establishment of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the junta's official name.

The SLORC kept a promise to hold elections in May 1990, but has so far refused to hand over power to Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), which won more than 80 percent of parliamentary seats.

The country's jungle-based parallel government, made up of NLD members who fled to insurgent-controlled areas near the Thai border, issued a statement in Bangkok on Wednesday warning the SLORC that it would be accountable for any violence in putting down the current protests.

"We are warning the members of the SLORC that... they are solely responsible for their deeds and the dire consequences that will follow, if undue brutality and force are used against the people of Burma," the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma said. [passage omitted]

Students, Monks Urge Changed Ruling Policy

BK1112013591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Dec 91 p 7

[Text] Exiled Burmese students and monks yesterday called for continued pressure on the Rangoon junta to allow democracy and to free Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

They also urged Thailand and ASEAN to rethink their so-called constructive engagement policy, a line aimed at inducing a more liberal attitude by the Burmese regime through any means other than sanctions.

Fourteen Mon monks, Burmese students and their supporters staged a brief demonstration in front of the Burmese Embassy yesterday morning to mark World Human Rights Day, which coincided with the Nobel Prize ceremony in Oslo.

The demonstrators, carrying placards denouncing military rule and demanding democracy in Burma, were outnumbered by uniformed and plain-clothes policemen.

The monks, representing the Overseas Mon Young Monks Union (OMYMU), chanted blessings for Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi, who also leads the National League for Democracy [NLD] which won a decisive majority in the May 1990 general election.

"Her release will indeed be the first sign that the junta is serious and not merely trying to deflect world condemnation of their misrule," OMYMU said in its statement.

One of the organisers of the demonstration said the turnout was small because the exiled Burmese have been continuously harassed and threatened with arrest since September.

In a statement handed out during the protest, the Overseas Mon National Democratic League said the prize for Aung San Suu Kyi "has clearly proved the illegitimacy of the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] regime."

"We earnestly appeal to ASEAN to shift from the constructive engagement policy. You have sullied your fame by carrying on business as usual with the tyrants of the Saw Maung regime. While complacent at your economic progress in the region, you have closed the ears to the cries of our people," the league said.

In another statement marking World Human Rights Day, the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma made a similar call.

"Recent experiences have shown that the 'constructive engagement' advocated by some countries does not lead to any cooperation on the part of SLORC politically. It may work in economic matters which these countries are interested in, but is of no use in alleviating the suffering of the 42 million Burmese for nearly 30 years."

Later in the afternoon, the Overseas National Students Organisation of Burma (ONSOB) and Amnesty International, held another event to underscore their concern.

The Action Committee for Democracy in Burma also issued a statement calling for the unconditional release of Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners and for SLORC to honour mandate given to the NLD.

The junta has deferred transfer of power to the elected representatives.

Magsaysay Award-winning lawyer Thongbai Thongpao said the Thai Government should stop lending all kinds of support, direct or indirect to the "tyrannical regime."

Mr Thongbai was guest speaker at the opening session of the Burma Art and Culture programme at the Students' Christian Centre.

"Thailand should not partake in any interests which come at the cost of people's rights," he said, referring to the Thai policy towards Burma.

Mrs Suu Kyi's husband and two sons yesterday received the peace prize on her behalf.

The SLORC seized power after brutally suppressing a pro-democracy movement in 1988 and had kept Mrs Suu Kyi under house detention for two-and-a-half years.

Status of More NLD Representatives Revoked

BK1012155491 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Announcement No. 984 of the Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar, dated 10 December 1991]

[Text] The Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] issued Announcement No. 984 on 10 December 1991

Subject: Nullification of the status as People's Assembly representatives of four persons who infringed on Section 11J and one person who infringed on Section 11K of the People's Assembly Election Law.

1. The following people elected as People's Assembly representatives for the National League for Democracy [NLD] during the multiparty democratic general election on 27 May 1990 have been found to be guilty of the offenses listed below:

A. U Kyi Maung, RGN000437, Bahan township constituency-2, Yangon [Rangoon] Division—Section 5J of the

1950 Emergency Act and Section 6-2B, 6-3 of the Secrecy Act of the Government of Union of Myanmar.

B. U Soe Thein, BR030928, Waw township constituency-2, Pegu Division—Section 5A, 5B, 5J of the 1950 Emergency Act.

C. U Myo Aung, PNA069407, Tavoy township constituency-2, Tenasserim Division—Section 5A, 5B, 5J of the 1950 Emergency Act.

D. U Kyaw Min, 12/PADATA-NAING009665, Bassein West township constituency-2, Irrawaddy Division—Section 5A, 5B, 5J of the 1950 Emergency Act.

E. U Bo Moung, DQ012835, Tabayin township constituency-1, Sagaing Division—Section 143 of the Criminal Code.

2. Hence, the four persons mentioned in section 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1D have infringed on Section 11J of the People's Assembly Election Law, and the person mentioned in section 1E has infringed on Section 11K of the People's Assembly Election Law. Thus, these persons no longer have the right to continue to be People's Assembly representatives and their status as elected representatives has been nullified.

3. It is also hereby announced that in accordance with Section 80B of the People's Assembly Election Law, the five persons mentioned above shall no longer have the right to run for elections in the next 10 years effective today.
By the authority vested in me,
Signed: Aye Maung, secretary

Cambodia

Sihanouk's Visit to Kompong Cham Reported

Sihanouk Gives Speech 8 Dec

BK1012100191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, during his visit to Kompong Cham Province on 8 December—recorded]

[Text] I, Samdech Euv [Prince Father] Norodom Sihanouk, would like to greet the clergy, whom I very much missed and who are the symbol of serenity for all of us, in the form of our national and state religion, namely Buddhism. Greetings to His Excellency [H.E.] Prime Minister Hun Sen, head of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Cabinet, and Madame; greetings to all excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, who are outstanding leaders of the SOC and the SOC administration, particularly those in Kompong Cham Province, and outstanding leaders of our Cambodian People's Party [CPP].

First of all, I would like to pay respect to the clergy, compatriots, excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen, who are very much missed and loved by me, your Samdech Euv, and my wife. As H.E. your representative has just said in his expressive speech, you and I have been separated for many years, except for the three and a half years I was with you during the Pol Pot era. Then he [words indistinct] me but we were not as close as today. The CPP and the SOC Government and administration have kindly let me stay with you forever until I die. I will be the cool shade for you and the father of the nation, in the same way as in the past during the Sangkum Reas Niyum era.

I went through a bitter and hard time like you. Each of our family members met with great danger, death, and incomparable misery when Pol Pot and his group ruled our country through a national united front. Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] members, current SOC leaders—such as H.E. Hun Sen and Madame, H.E. Chea Sim, and H.E. Heng Samrin—and I set about liberating our nation from this united front in a five-year struggle. However, our wonderful victory was usurped by Pol Pot, causing our people to suffer beyond comparison with any other sufferings. I would like to inform all venerable monks and all my brothers and children once again that my family and the family of my wife—as well as the families of all of you, my uncles, brothers, and children—also suffered from the same incomparable catastrophe. We admit that all of us have experienced great misfortunes and bitter sufferings. However, now that we need reconciliation in order to join hands with each other in rebuilding peace for the sake of our motherland, we agree not to delve into the past at this time, and are not going to reexamine the bitter past. I would like to say, however, that our refusal to forget these miserable times is reasonable. Nevertheless, as H.E. the representative of wonderful Kompong Cham Province has just said in his excellent speech, we must pay special attention above all else to endeavoring at all costs to consolidate peace in our country, to strengthen and perpetuate unity in our country, and to have all of us live happily together in solidarity, unity, independence, and with territorial integrity, as we used to in the times of Samdech Euv's Sangkum Reas Niyum Era, described by H.E. Chairman Chea Sim.

The CPP continues its mission in all domains, including domestic affairs and foreign policy, according to Samdech Euv's program in leading Sangkum Reas Niyum. The CPP has already solemnly declared that it is going to follow the path of Samdech Euv. It has invited your Samdech Euv, Norodom Sihanouk, to become the shade, the father of all Cambodian children and the entire Cambodian nation. [applause]

I boundlessly express my heartfelt emotion at being able to return to the motherland since that historic day, November 14, 1991. I have been able to reestablish close contact with my venerable monks, with all grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren in various localities—first of all in our capital city, Phnom Penh, where I met with my children and saw the excellent achievements of the CPP and the SOC Government. After visiting Phnom Penh, I went to Kandal Province, notably Kandal Stoeng City, where I witnessed a number of other excellent achievements of the CPP and SOC Government. From there I have continued my trip, and today I have the great fortune and honor of coming to the glorious and wonderful province of our country—namely Kompong Cham Province. For this reason, I thank all my children, uncles, aunts, and grandchildren for turning up in large numbers to welcome me. You come not from the districts, communes, villages, and towns of Kompong Cham Province alone. According to H.E. Chairman Hun Sen, who is a darling of Samdech Euv [words indistinct], but I also said the other day that some of Samdech Euv's children have come from nearby provinces, especially from Kompong Thom and Kratie Provinces. I take this opportunity to express thanks to all children who so kindly turn up in tremendous numbers to welcome me, in a grand atmosphere of jubilation and wonderful solidarity. This has greatly overwhelmed me and my wife. I thank all of you very much. [applause]

Returning to the topic of our motherland, I feel most confident about the present and future of our country under the highly patriotic, capable, and astute leadership of the CPP and SOC Government. Under the leadership of this party and government, it is evident that my compatriots and children have been revived in an atmosphere of freedom, independence, peace, and development.

Speaking of post-Sangkum Reas Niyum development—which was suspended from the time of the March 1970 coup d'etat of Lon Nol and Sirik Matak to January 1979—up to the present and into the future, it is apparent that this development is growing rapidly. For example, [words indistinct] have been revived and new factories have been added to the achievements of the Sangkum Reas Niyum era. One development that pleases me very much is the great development of national education. There are many primary schools, secondary schools, colleges, and universities. This sector is advancing by enormous steps. The number of students and pupils is mind-boggling. This is the best thing, my children, for each country can develop only if its citizens—especially the young people who possess the future potential of the motherland—enjoy a good education, possess good technical expertise, and receive sufficient scientific training in order to serve the people and nation, defend the country, and develop the motherland. Education is vitally needed for the glorious future of the nation.

Let us consider the slogan of the CPP which says that we are undeniably the descendants of Angkor. We must unite the mind and body of our new Cambodia with the Angkor era, when we were glorious and prosperous in all fields. The foundation that will bring about development and progress for our nation is good education. Let us fight to eliminate illiteracy. Let us work to enable all our compatriots to understand, read, write our own language, and to learn foreign languages that are useful and necessary to absorb foreign science and technology to be used in national reconstruction and to march the nation rapidly onward. As my beloved H.E. Chairman Hun Sen had said, other countries advanced between 1970 and 1990 while we suffered at the hands of the military and were misled by the polpotists. Others advanced and we did not. Therefore, now we must unite and do our best to catch up with the rest of the world. Therefore, I would like to praise once again the great successes of the CPP and SOC Government. As head of state and chairman of the SNC, I am supposed to be neutral in Cambodia. However, I must also be fair-minded and honest. If you are fair and honest, you must discuss what you see. For this reason, although I have been criticized in some circles of being partial, of not being neutral, and of making propaganda for the CCP, I would like to say that this is not so. As the father of the nation and head of state of Cambodia, I must note the good things I see. This is a moral reward as well as an encouragement. Since you are taking the right path, I have to urge you to continue on that path, to continue working for success. [applause]

In other fields, such as public health, there has also been immense development. Special care has been taken for orphaned children who lost their parents during the era of bitterness. The CPP has been taking good care of orphans and sick babies. I visited the hospitals and centers for orphans. Together with H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and H.E. Chairman Hun Sen, we distributed gifts and aid to patients and orphans. I saw that the achievement in public health was good, and that it was necessary. We must continue to develop this sector. In other domains, I have also seen that great efforts have been made. In this context, I also would like to inform you that when our country recovers happiness, peace, independence, and territorial integrity, as in the time of Sangkum Reas Niyum, many countries are now [changes thought] at present we are fortunate that no country in the world is our enemy. All countries are our friends. Our new Cambodia is fortunate in that all countries, regardless of their various characters and ideologies, have the same disposition toward us: they admire and respect us, and they are all sympathetic to us, desiring to give us unconditional aid in social and cultural pursuits. In the cultural domain, they are helping us restore the Angkor temples to their past state of beauty. And there are other fields. For example, from now on we must see to it that communication lines, roads, railroads, bridges, ports, airports, and so on be restored from their present dilapidated state, which was the result of both wars and the period of bitterness. This infrastructure now needs to be redeveloped, and this requires the sacrifices of our nation as well as assistance from others. We cannot undertake all this work alone because we are a small and poor country torn apart by wars and the period of bitterness. Therefore, if other countries lend us a helping hand, we should feel most grateful to them for giving us aid without strings attached.

I have specifically notified these countries that if they give us aid, they should give it to the SOC Government. I am not going to accept aid because I must stay above political affairs, like the King of the Kingdom of Thailand or the Queen of the United Kingdom. I must stay on top and let the government and parliament bear responsibility, since the power of these bodies is derived from the people. The father of the people must therefore remain above everything and must not interfere in any administrative, governmental, or parliamentary affairs.

For this reason, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the SOC, the SOC Government, the SOC administration, and the CPP are in control of more than 80 percent of the territory of Cambodia. The CPP has even told me that it is in control of 90 percent; at least it is not incorrect to say that it is in control of more than 80 percent. Thus, there remains another part made up of regions belonging to the PDK, the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party of Prince Ranariddh, and the party of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] of H.E. Son Sann or H.E. Sak Sutsakhan. All four factions have now agreed to reconcile problems among themselves and to operate within the same framework, which has been called the Supreme National Council of Cambodia—CNS, Conseil National Supreme, in French; or SNC, Supreme National Council, in English. Therefore, with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as the chairman of the CNS, or SNC, there are four component parties. The tripartite coalition of FUNCINPEC-KPNLF-PDK has 50 percent of the representatives of the council, while the party of H.E. Hun Sen, H.E. Chea Sim, and H.E. Heng Samrin occupies another 50 percent. This body is placed under the chairmanship of a neutral chairman, which is myself, Norodom Sihanouk. The SNC is not a government. It symbolizes Cambodia's sovereignty and unity [passage indistinct] to be organized by the government of H.E. Hun Sen. The SNC is not involved in such affairs. However, regarding matters concerning the people in general in all regions—such as taxation or the distribution of foreign aid—the SNC members must meet together in order to cooperate with other generous, charitable aid-donor countries in arranging the fair distribution of aid.

At present, aid to Cambodia must primarily be placed under the control of the administration of H.E. Hun Sen, H.E. Chea Sim, H.E. Heng Samrin. However, if anyone wants to help the other parties, they are free to deal directly with Prince Ranariddh, H.E. Khieu Samphan, or H.E. Son Sann. The latter can take care of the aid specifically destined for them. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk should help monitor the handling of various affairs, so that conditions of the agreement—signed by all of us in Paris on October 23, 1991—are correctly met. What is the purpose of this? It is so that there can be complete stability and peace in Cambodia, and so all of us can enjoy peace and happiness. Just as many of you have expressed that seeing Samdech Euv back makes you think about the golden old times, and now that Samdech Euv is staying with you, you hope peace and properity will last forever.

Allow me to assure you that as long as the four factions correctly implement the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, and as long as all four factions correctly and sincerely implement it with goodwill and honesty toward each other and especially toward our nation and motherland—toward the superior interests of the motherland and the people without consideration for individual or personal interests and in their capacity as true patriots—peace will come and no obstacle will be able to prevent us from having peace. No one, no country, no obstacle, no incident will be able to prevent us from having peace. There is only one obstacle: if the four factions fail to correctly implement the agreement. However, I am confident, and I have repeatedly appealed to the four factions to be sincere and act in such a way that the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement is implemented 100 percent. Therefore, at this time that I meet with you, my children, in Kompong Cham Town—just as your representative has said in his charming, expressive, and very meaningful speech—all of us are happy and are celebrating our decision to be determined as in the Angkor era. And we rely on the 23 October Paris agreement to do so.

Will we have to implement this agreement alone or with the assistance of foreign countries? We will be assisted, but the assistance of these foreign countries is not in the form of superpower interference. We are an independent, fully sovereign country. No one can harm or violate our independence and sovereignty. And it is the United Nations—of which we are a legitimate member—that will send its personnel, now numbering nearly 300, to help us restore peace and implement the Paris agreement. It is true that Cambodia is a small country compared to such heavyweights as the Soviet Union or the United States, but to us we are quite big and we have regions under the PDK, under Prince Ranariddh, and under H.E. Son Sann. Each of our groups is small, but together we form quite a significant entity. And it is quite a problem for us to work well without assistance. For this reason, we need the United Nations to send more than 300 personnel to help us. I would like to inform all venerable monks and all my children that we in the SNC have decided that all UN personnel are welcome. I think thousands of them, maybe 10,000 or more, will come. This will depend on the budget available. This is because the personnel sent to help us, both civilian and military, must be given funds for their subsistence and mission. Thus, it is not yet clear exactly how many personnel will be sent to Cambodia. Maybe 10,000 or more. This is because the United Nations does not yet know how much money it is going to receive to support the livelihood and mission of the UN personnel.

I would like to inform you that we sincerely welcome their mission. This is not superpower aggression or interference in our internal affairs. It is the United

Nataions that is coming to help bring us peace, happiness, and development. The UN is coming to help us restore communications lines and other life-supporting infrastructure necessary to make our country function as an independent state. In the final stage of their mission—in 1993 or in 12, 13, or 14 months' time—they will help us organize general elections that will be as fair as possible so that no factions or parties can protest that the outcome is unfair or incorrect. For this reason, the government and CPP—represented by H.E. Hun Sen and H.E. Heng Samrin, among others—as well as the three other factions that have joined us in the SNC, have agreed with each other that the United Nations will be in charge of organizing the elections. And the United Nations will verify the results of the elections. Once the results are approved as correct, the future parliament will represent all of Cambodia, and Cambodia will not be divided into two parts any longer. There will be a complete, singular, and unified Cambodia. The government derived from the elections and parliament will be the sole, legitimate government of our nation. Therefore, this is very important. Children, you should know that this kind of election will be held in 1993. We have also agreed that the people will decide everything.

Regarding the Khmer Rouge, some foreigners like the Americans, and some Cambodians, have asked: Why are the Khmer Rouge—who are despised by the overwhelming majority of the people and who have committed criminal offences—allowed to be part of the SNC and to take part in the election?

I would like to take this fine opportunity to again inform our nation—I already did this in Phnom Penh, our capital, but I would like to briefly do it one more time—about the following. The five major powers, who are permanent members of the UN Security Council; the cochairmen, France and Indonesia, of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia which was held in Paris, the French capital; many other countries, such as Vietnam, the Soviet Union, and so on; and our four Cambodian parties—not just the PDK of Khieu Samphan but also the parties of H.E. Hun Sen, Prince Ranariddh, and Son Sann—have agreed that if we do not include the Khmer Rouge in the Cambodian community, they could start a war again and create insecurity which would prevent you all from enjoying peace. Now that we have peace and happiness, we should maintain this. This is why the PDK of Khieu Samphan—H.E. Khieu Samphan—has been included in our national community.

Concerning the issue of not letting the Khmer Rouge have power, the U.S. Congress, for example, has cautioned our country to be careful and not to allow the Khmer Rouge to be involved in the government. The Khmer Rouge are allowed to take part in the elections but not win. Losing or winning does not depend on the Americans or other countries except Cambodia. It depends on our Cambodian people; they are the ones to decide. They know what is wrong and what is right. If they do not like the Khmer Rouge, they simply will not vote for the Khmer Rouge. And that would be the end of it. How can the Khmer Rouge come to power if they lose in the elections? The key to winning or losing in the elections, or becoming part of the Cambodian Government or not, is in the hands of all of you—anyone 18 years old and over—who are eligible to vote. Those who are 21 years old and over, men and women, can stand as candidates to be elected as people's representatives.

Therefore, whether to allow the Khmer Rouge in the national assembly or the government or not does not depend on the United States or any other countries. It is all up to you, children. You are the voters, masters of the land, and sovereign people of Cambodia. It is for you to decide what you want. No one can prevent you.

I come to you as someone neutral. I just want to say briefly that it is up to all of you in Cambodia, eight million people, to decide. Those 18 years old and over, men and women, are eligible and have the right and duty to vote. This concerns everything about the national assembly, state authority, and government.

Concerning the head of state, I—whom you, beloved children have kindly said that the coup by Lon Nol and Sirik Matak which toppled me was unreasonbale—was faultless. I was on an official visit to the Soviet Union when I was overthrown. This was because people say I was at fault: because I took the side of the Vietcong and North Vietnam, who struggled against imperialism to reunite their nation and motherland and to liberate South Vietnam. I only did this in conformity with justice. If we do not support countries that want independence and national unification, when we are in danger, who will help us? We have to know how to help others so that they can help us in return. This was the reason I supported Vietnam.

I was deposed for just this reason. This is why the majority of parties have solemnly stated that I remain the legitimate head of the entire state of Cambodia until the elections in 1993 to elect the national assembly, which in turn will elect the government. And after the people have elected the national assembly, they will elect the head of state.

Thus, in 1993, I will take part in the contest [laughs] not because I want a title and honor. I used to be king and head of state; that was enough. I do not need to have any other title or honor. I just want to maintain my name. I have never betrayed the nation. I have served the nation sincerely, 100 percent, and have made efforts to build the nation in every field. Suddenly, I was the victim of the injustice of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak group. I just want this injustice corrected and cleansed for the sake of history and the world. For this reason, in 1993, I will take part in the election, not the contest to be in the national assembly or government. I would like to specify that the people are responsible for the national assembly and government. The national assembly and government are the organs responsible for drafting laws, and are in charge of administration, as well as domestic and foreign policy. I would only be the shade and symbol of an independent and neutral Cambodia. This is all I ask for, in order to cleanse my name for history and for the world.

This is why I implore the national assembly to draft a constitution that will not give any power to the head of state: that is, make him like the King of Thailand or the Queen of England, the shade for the nation, the symbol of the country, a figurehead that will not interfere in the forming of government, in state affairs, or financial or economic affairs. Let him stay above everything else and provide peace and compassion for the people. It is up to the political parties to run and lead the country after winning in the elections. Let them lead the country and nation, while the head of state remains the shade and symbol of the nation. This is sufficient, and would provide peace and tranquility. Allowing the head of state to interfere would not be good. This is why I say that as head of state, I would be like the Thai king or the English queen. This is what I would like to stress.

Concerning the contest, I do not yet know who will compete in this with me. There are many parties that will take part in the contest, but only among themselves. As far as the presidential election is concerned, it seems that at present, no one else is contesting. But if there are contestants, I would welcome this. It is all up to all of you, children, to vote for me, or for anyone else for that matter [laughs].

I am here only to inform you about that which the constitution should concern itself. However, it is not I who will draft the constitution; it is up to the national assembly. I categorically ask that the constitition not give any power to the Cambodian head of state or president: neither legislative power—namely the national assembly—to draft laws; nor executive power—namely the government—to run the country. Neither the head of state nor the judicial power should be accorded these powers. The head of state should not interfere with judicial power. Let judicial power be independent: as they say in French, "independence of the judiciary" [preceding four words in French]. The executive branch—that is, the government—should be held accountable only to the national assembly. The legislative branch—that is, the national assembly—should also be independent. Our system should work something like this.

The way the CPP and the SOC Government have been serving millions of you, giving you education, is good. Now that we have achieved this, building a good name for our country—so that it will become known that it is a liberal and democratic regime, with many parties which take part in serving the nation—is our remaining task. It is up to the people—the masters of the land—to elect those who will be in charge of state affairs. As for the president, he should be left apart, above everyone else, to serve as the shade for the nation.

I would like to end the speech on the following note. In concluding, I would again like to express admiration for everyone united around the CPP and the SOC Government, which have served and developed the nation. I am very pleased about this. Thank you very much indeed, and I wish the CPP and the SOC Government further great successes in serving, building, and defending the nation. May the power of the triple jewels look after all of you, children and compatriots; H.E. Chairman Hun Sen and Madame; H.E. Chea Sim and Madame; H.E. Heng Samrin and Madame; and in particular the clergy, the CPP, and the SOC Government. May you enjoy peace and happiness with unity, harmony, and progress. May you enjoy the five Buddhist blessings. May all the children and compatriots in Kompong Cham Province and in all provinces and cities of our Cambodia enjoy the five Buddhist blessings. Thank you. [applause]

Future Power Sharing Discussed

BK1112070291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0426 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 11—Prince Norodom Sihanouk detailed a political future for Cambodia turning on a division of power between himself and Prime Minister Hun Sen during a tour of east Cambodia which ended Tuesday.

"The least bad head of state is surely Sihanouk and the least bad government is that of Hun Sen," Sihanouk said to AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE] during his visit to Kompong Cham Province, the prime minister's home region.

Sihanouk insisted on the necessity of making Cambodia a liberal democracy with a monarch-president—"I am a little of both", he said—who reigns but does not govern.

"Every regime has its defects that one can always criticise, but honestly I must say the government of Hun Sen has achieved some things which surprised me", he added, citing education, health and the beginning of the rehabilitation of the economy in particular.

"We support Prince Sihanouk", [said] Hun Sen on his three-day trip to Kompong Cham, once one of the bastions of the Khmer Rouge during its struggle with the pro-U.S. regime of Lon Nol during the 1980's.

During his trip, Sihanouk announced Monday he would be visiting Vietnam and Laos during the second half of April after visiting Pyongyang for President Kim Il-sung's birthday on April 15.

Sihanouk was to have visited Vietnam and Laos this month but he recently announced the cancellation of this trip during a meeting of the Supreme National Council, of which he is head, at Phatthaya in Thailand.

'Tens of Thousands' Greet Sihanouk

BK1112012691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] On 8 December, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], paid a visit to Kompong Cham Province.

During the visit, the samdech met and spoke intimately to tens of thousands of Cambodian people who were waiting to extend a warm welcome to him. This visit was a part of the samdech's mission to reconcile and rally the Cambodian nation around the SNC headed by the samdech head of state.

Hun Neng Expresses 'Great Joy'

BK1112111791 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0418 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 11 Dec (SPK)—Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, and his spouse, Princess Monique, accompanied by Prime Minister Hun Sen, paid a three-day visit since Sunday [8 December] to Kompong Cham Province, 90 km east of the capital.

This is the first trip to the province after his return to the country on 14 November 1991 following nearly 13 years of exile. The population in Kompong Chhnang Province gathered along National Route 7 to greet the head of state—who was deposed in March 1970 and recently reestablished with the support of all factions. The samdech stopped at the township of three districts crossed by National Route 7, where he was acclaimed by the crowd as "Samdech Euv" after two decades of absence.

Between 1975 and 1979, the prince stayed in Phnom Penh but was confined to his residence; he did not have a chance to move about as he would have liked.

Soon after their arrival in the provincial seat, the samdech and his suite took part in the afternoon in a mass meeting with over 150,000 people who came to greet the prince.

Hun Neng, chairman of the provincial committee of the People's Party [short for Cambodian People's Party] and chairman of the Kompong Cham provincial people's committee, expressed the entire population's great joy at the honor of greeting and welcoming him. He termed the prince's historic trip evidence of his patriotism and his great love for the people. He also briefed the prince on the achievements of the province over the past 12 years, thanks to the population's tenacious efforts.

In his improvised speech, the prince expressed his great joy to be among his people after two decades of separation and appreciated the efforts of the People's Party, the government, and the Cambodian people in the interest of the nation. They are worthy of being the successors of the Sangkum Reas Niyum (Sihanoukist party in power prior to 1970.)

The samdech called on the four Cambodian factions to implement well the Paris accords for the benefit of the entire people and nation .

Concerning the general elections planned for early 1993, he stressed the right of the Cambodian people to decide. If the people do not like the Khmer Rouge and do not vote for them, how can they return to power? he said.

On his role as future head of state, he disclosed that he would recommend to the future parliament not to give him a lot of power, and that he would act only as the symbol of the nation and would not interfere in government affairs.

In the evening, the provincial party committee organized a solemn reception in his honor.

During his stay in Kompong Cham, the prince also visited the rubber plantation in Chup—the most important in the country—the provincial orphanage, and Tbong Khmum District. He also inaugurated the district dispensary named "Dispensary Preah Sihanouk", the Cambodia-Hungary friendship agricultural technical school, and the Mekong hotel.

Sihanouk Speaks at Hospital

BK1112085191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's chief of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, at the main hospital in Kompong Cham Province on 9 December—recorded]

[Summary] First of all, I would like to thank His Excellency Hun Sen, our Cambodia's prime minister, and madame for arranging this visit for me. This main hospital is developing rapidly under the wise leadership of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the State of Cambodia [SOC]'s Government.

I am very glad to be able to return to live with all compatriots as in the past, when we used to jointly strive to build, defend, and serve the country. Thanks to the efforts made by the CPP and SOC Government, all Cambodian people have enjoyed prosperity in all aspects. "Some friendly countries have promised to give us assistance. This includes the French friends as proved by the presence of France's Medicins sans Frontieres [Doctors Without Borders] in this hospital. I would like to take this opportunity to express deep thanks to the Medicins sans Frontieres."

I am very pleased with all the efforts made by the CPP and SOC government headed by Their Excellencies Chairmen Chea Sim, Hun Sen, and Heng Samrin, who have enabled me to visit places in Phnom Penh city and

Kandal and Kompong Cham Provinces which are making progress in all aspects.

I am very happy to receive such a warm welcome from all of you present here and would like to thank all doctors, nurses, and personnel in this hospital, in the entire Kompong Cham Province, and throughout the country for carrying out your duties with such a great spirit of sacrifice and love for the people.

I have learned that this main hospital and the children's hospital still need medical, scientific, and technical equipment. "Concerning this matter, I would like to inform all of you that before visiting Kompong Cham Province, many agencies of the United Nations sent their outstanding representatives to see me. Availing myself of that occasion, I invited three members of the SOC, namely His Excellency Dit Munti, representing His Excellency Hun Sen, and representatives of the tripartite movement whose leaders are members of the Supreme National Council [SNC] to that meeting under my chairmanship so that they could jointly discuss and negotiate with those UN officials. Those UN officials told me that they would help us, not just verbally but materially. That is, they would give us assistance in the forms of equipment and materials that we need for improving our people's livelihood in all aspects and rebuilding our country, which has been ruined due to the war and the erroneous policy pursued by Mr. Pol Pot." They are helping us rebuild and make our country progress in the same way as other countries. They have promised to help me, the SNC, and the SOC Government headed by His Excellency Hun Sen so that we have sufficient expertise and means to rebuild our country.

I would like to request the director of the hospital and the provincial governor to please make a list of your requirements so that I can forward it to these agencies. I would like to request His Excellency Hun Sen to please allow His Excellency Dit Munti, who had attended that meeting, and whom I had already introduced to those UN agencies' representatives, to represent me, Samdech Euv Norodom Sihanouk, in directly contacting, and asking for, aid from appropriate agencies, such as the one in charge of health."

Son Sann Views Peace Agreement Implementation

BK1112095591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 11 Dec 91

["Interview" with His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] by unidentified station commentator on 7 December 1991; place not given—recorded]

[Summary] [Correspondent] Thank you for granting this interview. On 27 November, there was an attack in Phnom Penh against Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan. A number of our people are worried that this would prevent the implementation of the Paris peace agreement. As leader of one party and also SNC member, what do you think should be done to prevent this kind of incident from occurring again?

[Son Sann] It is true that great concern was expressed following that incident. However, after the meeting in Phatthaya, all sides came to an understanding and the four Cambodian parties will soon return to meet in Phnom Penh. "The United Nations says the meeting has to be in Phnom Penh. Therefore, we have to be careful to avoid this kind on incident in the future."

To answer your question on what to do, here is my answer: "All four parties signed the agreement supporting and accepting in full the solution of the five major powers. Therefore, we have to abide by the agreement." We have to cooperate to solve the problem of war in Cambodia and problems in general. "I beg all four parties to be brave in serving the people and to restore peace."

[Correspondent] You have always wanted national union. Can you again talk about what Cambodians should do to have national union?

[Son Sann] My belief has been extant since 1963 when my biography was published in which this statement of mine was quoted. "I said: If Cambodia wants to remain independent, all Cambodians should unite and achieve two goals, nationalism and democracy." I still believe in this.

Since 1976 I have appealed to people to understand one another and unite. "If what was done was wrong, we should strive to understand one another. Do not insist on claiming that one is right." "If we do not unite, the solution of the five major powers will come to nothing." The SNC needs the four Cambodian parties to work together; if this can be done, our country will have peace and progress in the future.

[Correspondent] During my recent stay in Phnom Penh, I noted that our people are still having a hard time. Those working with the Hun Sen side in particular are lacking a lot of things. As an ecomomist, do you think there are ways to correct the current economic situation in the country?

[Son Sann] I served our country from 1946 to 1968 in the economic and financial sector under King Sihanouk, and later under Head of State Norodom Sihanouk. The international community still acknowledges me and what I had achieved. I would like to assist in the economic and financial sector. "I will be working with representatives from the four parties, not by myself." When we work together we will get to know one another and have mutual trust. "When we work well, the international community will trust us and we can then ask for technical, financial, and economic aid." I will do what is beneficial for Cambodia not just for this or that party.

[Correspondent] Finally, do you have anything to pass on to the clergy and compatriots?

[Son Sann] I would like to inform beloved clergy and compatriots in and outside the country that "I am sincere in what I have said above." I do not want any rift. "I want our country to live within the framework of the solution worked out by the five major powers—they have already bargained among themselves. We have to strictly implement this. I pray every day that our Cambodian people recover peace and happiness.

FUNCINPEC Appeals for Support From Members

BK1112083591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 11 Dec 91

["Press communique"; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The General Secretary of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC] would like to inform the president and members of FUNCINPEC branches worldwide and Cambodian compatriots living abroad of the following announcement:

1. The political agreement signed on 20 November 1991 by Prince Norodom Ranariddh on behalf of FUNCINPEC and His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen on behalf of the People's Party, and the military agreement signed on 23 November 1991 by General Kruoch Yoeum on behalf of the National Army of Independent Cambodia [NAIC] and Lieutenant General Phuong Siphan on behalf of the State of Cambodia's army, took place felllowing discussion and agreement among FUNCINPEC leading members and the NAIC.

2. It is certainly not correct to say that Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk is the one who initiated such agreements; as our leader however he does not oppose them.

3. The political agreement signed by these two parties has no other purpose than to conform with the process to implement the Paris peace agreement dated 23 October 1991 and maintain unity between the two parties in order to support the great and lofty patriotic mission of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk after his historic and triumphant return to Phnom Penh.

Preamble of the 20 November 1991 Agreement

The treaty between the two parties clearly says that the two parties will make every effort to facilitate the mission of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk in national reconstruction and national reconciliation. The two sides express support for Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk's candidacy in the forthcoming presidential election.

Article 1. The two sides announce that they will avoid criticizing or attacking each other in any way during the electoral campaign which is part of the election organized by the United Nations. What is stated in the agreement between these two sides is in accordance with the statement in the 23 October 1991 Paris peace agreement on Cambodia.

Article 2. The two sides agree to cooperate in the framework of the future national assembly resulting from free elections organized by the United Nations and, if necessary, to set up a coalition government (Article 3).

4. In consideration of the above, the 20 November 1991 agreement, signed by Prince Norodom Ranariddh and H.E. Hun Sen, clearly shows that there is nothing that runs counter to the idea and text of the 23 October 1991 peace agreement. There is nothing against any Cambodian parties. It only responds to the current realistic situation, particularly the situation prevailing in Cambodia following the return to Phnom Penh of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. This is in accordance with the principle of liberal democracy put forward in Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk's statement at the news conference in Phatthaya on 5 December 1991.

5. The military agreement signed between the two armies on 23 November 1991 is clear in its preamble: This agreement is aimed at creating mutual trust beneficial to the implementation of the 23 October 1991 peace agreement. This agreement is made with the aim of completely eliminating the deadly fighting between the two parties' armies, which had been the case until the signing of this agreement. This agreement is a contribution to the creation or facilitation of the concrete implementation by the UN peacekeeping force of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC].

This agreement is also in accordance with the decision of the Supreme National Council [SNC] at its meeting in Beijing on 18 July 1991. The military agreement, like the political agreement, has nothing whatsoever against the 23 October 1991 peace agreement. On the contrary, these two agreements are contributions to improving the implementation of the Paris peace agreement.

The military agreement does not lead to opposition to the military forces of any Cambodian parties. On the contrary, this agreement clearly says that the NAIC will play the role of coordinator among the State of Cambodia's army, the army of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, and the Khmer People's Liberation army.

The General Secretary of FUNCINPEC hopes to receive not only understanding but also support from presidents, members, and compatriots whenever necessary, in order to enable these two agreements to take a definitive shape. This would bring durable peace to our sacred Cambodian motherland because these two agreements include the idea and text of the 23 October 1991 Paris peace agreement on Cambodia.

Indonesia

Dili Officer Did Not Violate Procedures

BK1012130691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0842 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 10 (AFP)—The head of the Udayana military command that oversees East Timor has said the officer in charge during last month's shooting incident there did not violate military procedure.

General Sintong Panjaitan was quoted in the latest issue of the EDITOR weekly as saying that Infantry Colonel Binsar Aruan—commander of Sector C where the November 12 shooting took place—had acted according to procedure.

"The commander of the Sector C is not bad. A good work does not always yield good results," he said, adding: "I view that the action (Binsar's) was very much according to the procedures. Therefore he cannot be said to be at fault."

Panjaitan said every commander, regional or sectorial, had "to act immediately if there was any problem in their regions. They should not wait for others. There is no question of violation. There is no question of punishment."

"It could be, that after Binsar is withdrawn from his position, he is promoted, who knows?" he said.

Military chief General Try Sutrisno said last month that, following evaluation of the incident, the Sector C commander and the 303 battallion involved would be replaced in East Timor.

Panjaitan said East Timor was an area of "military operation" where soldiers were given the "main task of wiping out the enemy," but added that the commander in Dili had never issued orders to fire.

However, he said self-defence was warranted in extraordinary situations, such as when troops risked losing their weapons.

Commenting on the hasty burial of the 19 victims of the shooting, Panjaitan referred to an earlier incident in Dili on October 28, in which two young East Timorese had died.

In the November 12 incident, witnesses said troops shot into a crowd at the Santa Cruz cemetery that had gathered there for a memorial service for one of the October 28 victims.

"Only one was buried by his family and 19 died as a result. If the 19 people were returned to their families, how many hundreds would die then?" Fanjaitan said.

He said what was important was to "safeguard the safety of the people."

Human Rights Groups Call for Liberalization

BK1012125891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1119 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 10 (AFP)—Eight Indonesian human rights groups called Tuesday for greater freedom of association and expression and an end to repressive measures against demonstrations and labor strikes.

"Freedom of association such as the freedom of forming political organizations, freedom to form labor, fishermen and farmer's unions and freedom of expression such as press freedom and freedom to demonstrate... should be developed and fought for," they said in a joint statement.

Coinciding with International Human Rights day, the statement also called for an end to government measures curbing the growth of those freedoms.

The statement was signed by leaders of the eight groups, which included the Legal Aid Institute (LBH) and the Setiakawan (Solidarity) Independent Labor Union.

Mass and political organizations in Indonesia are "under the control of the state," it said, and politicking outside the "stage" often viewed as "manipulated by others, subversive, security-disturbing, and other similar charges."

"De facto, the setting up of a political party insubmissive to the state, independent labor unions and student organizations, cannot operate," the statement said. [sentence as received]

It cited the involvement of security forces in breaking labor demonstrations in recent months, threatening arrests and lay-offs.

The statement also called for abolition of "state policies which opens and gives the opportunity for repressive actions against demonstrations and labor strikes" and for a guaranteed right to demand wage hikes and choose representation in negotiation and settlement of labor disputes.

The government has declined to recognize Setiakawan, which was set up by human rights campaigners in October 1990. It has urged local authorities and firms not to grant facilities to the union.

It recognizes the All Indonesian Workers Association (SPSI) as the sole union. Setiakawan has said SPSI is not independent and ineffective in fighting for workers.

The government has said that while striking is recognized as a labor right, workers are expected to report their problems to the Manpower Ministry or take their case to court instead of staging demonstrations or strikes.

It has also warned workers to avoid involving LBH and other non-governmental organizations in their labor disputes.

The statement also called for an end to institutions and laws subordinating women and the government's tendency to protect strong businesses.

Palapa Satellite To Compete With Thailandsat

BK1012102491 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0838 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec. 10 (ANTARA-ECOANA)—Indonesia with its Palapa satellite is ready for competition with Thailand which has recently purchased two telecommunication satellites from U.S. Hughes aircraft company, the president director of the state-owned telecommunication company Telkom Co. Ltd said here on Monday.

Cacuk Sudaryanto admitted he felt at ease with the presence of Thailand in the telecommunication satellite market in Southeast Asia.

Thailand named its two satellites Thailandsat which will be launched soon. According to reports the first Thailandsat will be launched at the end of 1993 or the beginning of 1994 by Arianespace.

This will be the first rocket launched by the European consortium company.

Thailandsat's telecommunication services can cover Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, some parts of China, Indochina, and Singapore.

Thaksin Chinnawat, the director of the Chinnawat computer and communication company who holds the concession right to operate Thailandsat for 30 years, has said that he would also expand the use of his satellite to the neighbouring regions.

Thailand has so far hired Indonesia's Palapa transponders and now it has even ordered two more transponders which are to be allocated in the Palapa b-4 scheduled to be launched around April 1992.

Cacuk said Indonesia would continuously monitor the current developments because it has also learned that Malaysia also planned to launch its own satellite.

He said it was important now to intensify and speed up marketing activities among countries under the Palapa range prior to the competition.

He said he was optimistic Indonesia could win the competition in Southeast Asia.

"We hope we will not lose our customers but if they plan to withdraw we are ready to seek others," he said.

"We welcome every competition even with (national) private satellite if it is to be allowed," he added.

Philippines

U.S. Accepts Deadline for Bases Pullout Accord

HK1112024791 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] The United States has accepted the 31 December deadline given by the Philippines for forging an executive agreement on the three-year withdrawal period for the U.S. forces at Subic Naval Base. Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said that U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner accepts the deadline given by the government and will respect the position of the government on certain issues. If there is no agreement reached by the end of 1991 then Malacanang will serve its second termination notice on Washington as stipulated in the Ramos-Rusk Agreement. Earlier the Senate rejected the 10-year retention period for the U.S. forces to stay at Subic Naval Base. However, they supported the proposed three-year withdrawal period. The Philippine-U.S. panel is continuing its talks regarding the proposed three-year phase-out period, and the formal talks are expected to take place after Wisner's arrival from Washington on 20 December.

Defense Arrangements To Continue

HK1112040391 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 11 Dec 91 p 3

[By Dario B. Agnote and Dionisio Tubianosa]

[Text] Bilateral defense arrangements between Washington and Manila will continue even after the departure of U.S. military troops from Subic Bay Naval Base in Zambales within the next three years, senior Filipino and American military commanders said yesterday.

This developed even as Malacanang announced that the United States government was expected to give its final proposals on a three-year bases withdrawal scheme to the Philippine government by next weekend.

General Lisandro Abadia, the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, said mutual defense arrangements between the two countries would continue with or without the bases because it is covered by a separate treaty unless both countries agree to terminate the arrangement.

Abadia inspected Filipino and American soldiers engaged in a joint military training exercise called "Balikatan [Shoulder to Shoulder]" at various military camps in Central Luzon and Metro Manila.

This is the tenth time both countries are engaged in a mock tactical manuever against an imaginary foreign aggressor. The only time the exercise was cancelled was during the December 1989 coup when several U.S. servicemen were also trapped inside several hotels in Makati.

Apart from military exercises, Abadia said cross-training and exchanges in the field of intelligence, technology and military tactics would continue between the two countries.

The U.S. spends an average of $3 million annually for sending Filipino soldiers to the U.S. for military and technical training.

It was not known whether the Americans would continue sending equipment and weapons for the local Armed Forces now that the U.S. is withdrawing its military installations and personnel from the country.

The country was getting an average of $100 million from the U.S. every year in exchange for the stay of U.S. military facilities and forces on Philippine bases. The money was used to buy helicopers, trucks, jeeps, and other equipment. Maintenance and spare parts are also provided by the U.S. under a Foreign Military Fund (FMF) program.

The local Armed Forces will still be getting some $200 million in equipment from the U.S. under the 1991 Military Bases Agreement (MBA) compensation package and the U.S. will continue to deliver equipment and weapons under this program until September 1994.

Among the equipment being requested are additional fast patrol craft (PCF) for coastal interdiction, combat helicopters like the MG-520 for counter-insurgency, and V-300 armored vehicles for ground assault forces.

Meanwhile, in Malacanang, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon told Palace reporters that the U.S. would give its proposal on the three-year withdrawal scheme after U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner, the head of the U.S. negotiating panel, arrives from Washington on December 20.

"The U.S. government, through Ambassador Wisner, has committed that after discussions they (the Americans) will give us their final proposals after he gets back from Washington," Drilon said.

"We have made clear to him (Wisner) certain minimum positions that the government of the Philippines would not budget from or veer away from and...the U.S. government appreciates that we have a Dec. 31. 1991 deadline. So, we either sign an executive agreement which will call for a three-year withdrawal or in the absence of an agreement we are prepared to send a one-year notice of withdrawal, in the same manner that we are prepared to receive from them if they would want to leave in one year. That one-year notice withdrawal is in accordance with the Ramos-Rusk agreement," Drilon said.

Aquino, Teachers Dialogue Remains Deadlocked

HK1112095491 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 11 Dec 91

[By Dick Singchongco, DZRH Unit 6—live in Malacanang]

[Excerpt] The talks between President Aquino and the hunger striking teachers remains deadlocked. Both sides remained unaccommodating and continue to be firm in their stands. The striking school teachers said they will return to their hunger strike. The dialogue, which was held in Malacanang Palace, lasted more than two hours.

In an ambush interview, President Aquino reiterated that executive clemency remains one of the options of the teachers. In the meeting, the president also defended Education Secretary Isidro Carino. The president said that she gave Carino the authority to decide the issue. It was recalled that the teachers started a hunger strike after the government refused to reinstate them in the service. [passage omitted]

Bicol Residents Want Longer Christmas Truce

HK1112033991 Quezon City MALAYA in English 11 Dec 91 p 9

[Text] Bicolanos, weary of the 20 long years of war against insurgency, called for a longer respite from violence this Christmas season.

Bicol leaders, headed by Sen. Victor Ziga, early this week expressed hope that the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [CCP-NPA] will soon forge a ceasefire agreement to "make our people, especially those in far-flung areas, to peacefully enjoy the Christmas season longer."

The government and the CPP-NPA are amenable to a Christmas truce but they cannot agree on the duration.

The AFP said a 48-hour ceasefire "just like last year" was enough while the insurgents pushed a week-long truce.

Ziga said other regions in the country, just like Bicol, have been badly affected by the insurgency war that they need at least a respite once a year to at least rethink and review whether it (fighting) is worth it.

He said that aside from insurgency and natural calamities, "our people are beset by economic problems more in areas where the government could not seem to penetrate".

"It is important that we make everyone feel how nice it is to live in a non-violent society especially this Christmas," the Bicol solon said.

The Bicol region has been identified as one of the hotbeds of insurgency in the country. As of November this year there were more than 200 violent insurgency-related incidents reported.

Military, Rebels Trade Human Rights Charges

HK1112070391 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 11 Dec 91 pp 1, 10

[Text] The government, the military and the rebels traded blame yesterday over the status of human rights in the country as Human Rights Day was commemorated internationally.

The military released figures which said that communist guerillas killed more than 700 civilians, including 21 government officials this year.

Among the victims were 249 members of armed civilian groups organized by the military to protect villages and 468 people suspected of being informers shot accidentally in guerilla attacks [as published], the military figures showed.

The figures were released in response to charges by human rights groups of widespread abuses by soldiers engaged in the anti-insurgency campaign.

An average of eight to 10 people, including soldiers, rebels and civilians die in the fighting each day, the military says.

The Task Force Detainees, a Church-run group monitoring military abuses, said more than 1,000 suspected dissidents and activists had been killed by security forces in President Aquino's five-and-a-half years in office.

More than 18,000 people suspected of supporting the rebels have been arrested during the same period, the group said.

Sen. Wigberto Tanada, however, in a Human Rights Day speech said about 200,000 people are uprooted from their homes each year due to military operations in the provinces.

"The total war (policy) is supposed to be directed against the insurgents. But why do civilians count as the principal casualties?" Tanada asked.

He identified six major military operations from Marag Valley to Negros, Agusan, Surigao and Zamboanga which have caused the most widespread suffering among the people. These operations entailed aerial and artillery bombardment.

Tanada urged the government to pursue the peace initiatives started by non-government organizations.

Meanwhile, GABRIELA [General Assembly Binding Women for Reforms, Integrity, Equality, Leadership, and Action] announced that it has 16 documented cases of rape and sexual molestation of women in 1991 resulting from counter-insurgency oeprations.

In one case, Cherry Mendoza, 21, was raped twice, tortured and killed by members of a paramilitary group. Her body was left in a pigpen.

In other developments:

—Malacanang yesterday rejected requests for the release of peasant leader Jaime Tadeo made by several human rights organizations here and abroad.

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said Tadeo was not a political prisoner but had been convicted of estafa.

Tadeo, head of the kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas [Peasants Movement of the Philippines] (KMP) until his arrest last year, was a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission appointed by President Aquino.

—The Australian government has presented a grant for P215,000 [Philippine Pesos] to the Commission on Human rights to fund six seminars for 400-500 police and military trainers who will be taught how to teach basic human rights to soldiers and policemen.

—Representatives of 31 countries affirmed their commitment to human rights at ceremonies commemorating the celebration of UN Human Rights Day.

17 CPP-NPA Supporters Return to Government

HK1112031991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 10 Dec 91

[By Romy Gonzales in Baguio City]

[Text] Seventeen supporters and sympathizers of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [CPP-NPA] returned to the government through Bravo Company of the 69th Infantry Battalion in Mountain Province last week.

According to Colonel Rene Tuazon, 702d Infantry Brigade, nine CPP-NPA supporters in Barangay Bagnet, Bauco, Mountain Province returned to the government on 5 December, while eight others in Barangay Otocan, Bauco, Mountain Province returned on 6 November. They are now undergoing value information and spiritual session [as heard]. A total of 124 CPP-NPA supporters in Mountain Province have now returned to the government since 6 November this year.

NPA Kills 3 in Battle With Military

HK1112025891 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 11 Dec 91 p 12

[By Manuel R. Baliao]

[Text] General Santos City—Three army troopers were killed and 11 others wounded in a three-day clash which started Tuesday with New People's Army rebels in Malapatan, South Cotabato, the military said Friday.

Col. Ismael Villareal, 601st Infantry Brigade [IB]commander, identified the fatalities as 1st Lt. Florencio Ilaw, Cpl. Romeo de Lima and and Pfc. Efren Juaman, all of the 37th IB Bravo Company.

Villareal said the soldiers were on a tactical operation in sitio Surikil in Malapatan town in response to reports that the rebels were terrorizing the residents.

The insurgents, numbering about 60, opened fire with assault rifles and mortars as soon as the soldiers came into sight.

There were no reports of rebel casualties, but residents of adjacent barangays told authorities that they saw about 50 apparently dead dissidents being carried by their comrades.

The bodies of the slain soldiers were retrieved only yesterday due to heavy fighting. A military helicopter was sent to fetch them along with the wounded troopers.

Meanwhile, a suspected Muslim kidnapper was killed in a shootout with policemen at the outskirts of the city Monday night, according to police reports.

Killed was Amer Abdul, a henchman of Abogado Gado, alias Kumander [Commander] Mubarak, leader of a notorious kidnap-for-ransom syndicate based in Cotabato City.

P/Maj. [Police Major] Benhur Mongao, city police cheif, said the fall of Abdul, alias Kumander Hamer, had thwarted plans by Mubarak's gang to carry out kidnap-for-ransom plans here, according to intelligence reports.

Another gang member, identified as Abdul Kahar Nakakina, was captured while two others were able to escape after a brief gunbattle near the Makar wharf.

Mongao said the suspects had been under surveillance after reports of their presence here were confirmed by his intelligence operatives.

NPA Rebels Scorn Prospects of Military Defeat

HK1012025991 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 10 Dec 91 p 10

[By Fe B. Zamora]

[Text] Sierra Madre, Quezon—President Aquino is harboring an "illusion" if she believes the Armed Forces can defeat the New People's Army [NPA] by next year, an NPA spokesman said yesterday.

Gregorio "Ka [comrade] Roger" Rosal, spokesman for the Melito Glor Command in Southern Tagalog, also refuted politicians claims that the May 1992 elections will usher in change. He said politicans who will campaign in "Red areas" will have to pay "revolutionary taxes."

After several reports that he had been killed, captured or worse, surrendered to the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines], Rosal met with selected newsmen at the foothills of this famed mountain range in Southern Tagalog.

He had on a green hat with a lone red star, and a green jacket. Rosal, who has a P [Philippine peso] 700,000 reward on his head, was escorted by armed guerillas, some still in their teens.

"When they (AFP) speak of us, it's like we are ready for the picking," he said. "The AFP claims that they can defeat us by next year is an illusion."

"They (AFP) have not completely dismantled one single guerilla front," he averred. "We have suffered hardships from mass evacuations, psychological operations, aerial bombings but we were never strategically defeated in any revolutionary front."

A guerilla fighter for 20 years, Rosal said the guerilla movement will be around "to weaken a government" that does not look after the welfare of the people.

He also said the much-touted May 1992 elections does not offer a bit of hope for the people. He sees a "bloodier, dirtier" exercise of a "time-tested" way of fooling the people.

The NPA, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the National Democratic Front (NDF), will not endorse any candidate. Neither would it allow any of its followers to intimidate voters or snatch ballot boxes.

Instead, they will "study the record of every candidate"—from presidentiable to the lowest level—and present this to the mass-based supporters "who can vote if they want to," said Rosal.

But the candidates themselves will have to ask permission to campaign in NPA-controlled areas.

"We will not allow them to campaign in our areas if they do not talk to the NDF and ask for permits to campaign," he said.

"They have to pay some sort of revolutionary taxes. We know they are earning in the millions, so the taxes can go into hundreds of thousands. But we also look into their background, if they can really afford," he said.

In past elections, not just a few local candidates entered Red areas without paying taxes after "talking" with NPA leaders in the area.

"We are not really that strict," he continued. "But those with bad record, 'yong may standing order na [there is a standing order already], they'd better not try."

The NPA, the armed component of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), began waging the insurgency war in 1969. Ms. Aquino, who became president in 1986, has given the AFP until next year to defeat them.

Military reports said there were nearly 25,000 guerillas when Pres. Aquino took over. Recent military reports said there are only 16,000 NPAs nationwide.

Talks With MNLF Rebels Focus on 'Internal' Issues

HK1012125591 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network 0700 in Tagalog 10 Dec 91

[Text] The Aquino government is ready to talk with the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] as long as the talks are limited to internal issues involving the Muslims of the country. This statement was made by Speaker Abu Bakr of the Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao before he left for Senegal to attend the news conference of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC].

According to observers, the president's use of the word "internal issues" is an indication of an attempt to avoid discussing international issues to Muslim Filipinos in Southern Mindanao.

Meanwhile, a Department of Foreign Affairs official said that the government's willingness to hold talks with the MNLF in Jeddah will only pave the way for the discussion of external issues [as heard]. If the meeting pushes through, the OIC will host the talks in Jeddah.

CHRONICLE Gives More Emphasis to Political Events

HK1112075791 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 11 Nov 91 p 1

["From the editors": "Adapting to Change"]

[Text] The CHROICLE today introduces innovations as it continues to adapt to political and social change. Beginning with today's issue, we are giving larger emphasis to political events, while maintaining the strength of our economic coverage.

The shift of emphasis is dictated by the fact that the nation is facing a crucial election next year, in fact, the first free election since 1969. This is in line with the role we have defined for ourselves: we are trying to explain patiently and intelligently to our people the complex issues arising from the nation's transition from dictatorship to a stable democracy.

Our task is to explain the events of transition—whether a coup d'etat, economic restructuring, the return of Imelda Marcos or the fracturing of the party system—so people can make sense of them.

In view of these objectives, we have increased the number of our pages and have divided the daily CHRONICLE into three main sections: the main section, Business and Section Four, and Shipping. We aim to increase our pages as we secure advertising support. On our drawing board, for instance, are special sections to make the daily CHRONICLE a complete paper.

With our present size, there is essentially something useful for decision makers in government, business and other institutions, for businessmen and for the family.

We have reinforced our strength in the analysis of news, where we have broken new ground. We have added to the list of our opinion writers on our comment pages. Our opinion writers have been selected from among the authorities in their fields.

Whether we are presenting events on the Front Page or interpreting them on the opinion pages, our thrust is always explanation of the news. We will try to give the news a perspective, and we are presenting events from a point of view that puts the general public interest over sectoral or narrow ones.

It is no longer enough to present events in hodgepodge fashion. It only confuses the readers and diffuses their attention to trivia. We continue to redesign the CHRONICLE to make it more attractive. We package the news so that events can have focus, and its important dimensions are examined in our reports.

While it should be expected that political events will acquire salience in the months leading to the election, we are maintaining the importance of economic and business news because politics and economics are most often related. Political news has economic dimensions, and economic news has political implications.

The CHRONICLE will, as often as events require, explain the economic as well as political implications of the news.

We will continue to change as the nation and the rest of the world change, and change will be reflected in our format, content and focus.

We hope you will find our innovations useful as you yourself try to adapt to the breathtaking changes of this age.

Thailand

Suchinda Rejects Neutral Senate Nomination Plan

BK1112010591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Dec 91 p A3

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday rejected a proposal by the Campaign for Popular Democracy Committee for professional groups to nominate candidates to the Senate, saying the new Constitution gives the power of selection to the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC).

"I don't think it possible, but I agree with the principle of the proposal that the Senate should comprise people from different walks of life," he said.

Suchinda shrugged off criticism that the NPKC would pick people they trust in nominating 270 senators to ensure the generals still hold political sway after they return to the barracks following the general election.

New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut earlier had accused the military leaders of already dividing the Senate seats among themselves to share their power through the appointed legislature.

"We will face criticism anyway because there is no way to please everybody," said the NPKC deputy chairman who, as army chief and supreme commander, is the most powerful person in the Armed Forces.

Suchinda was responding to a proposal by the Campaign for Popular Democracy, which played the leading role in co-ordinating efforts by political parties, students and academics in the campaign to reject the Constitution. Committee deputy chairman Gothom Arya had previously said that under the proposal, the NPKC could ask such professional groups as the Medical Council and the Thai Lawyers Association to nominate candidates for the Senate. The proposal has won support from the Democrat Party.

Meanwhile, Magsaysay award winner Prawate Wasi echoed the idea. In a writen proposal, Prawate said the NPKC should not nominate their connections for the Senate. Instead they should ask neutral organizations to help nominate and screen candidates for the Senate, so the appointed legislature would be composed of people recognized for their qualifications and virtue who would represent different professional and career groups.

Prawate urged the NPKC to grab "the last chance."

Such a move would earn the NPKC credit and finally help it steer clear of its ultimate loss, he said.

He also urged political parties to sign a manifesto showing their commitment to amend the Constitution by dropping the undemocratic clauses. The Senate, which would be formed on the election day, should also co-operate with the elected House in amending the charter, he said.

"Don't forget His Majesty the King's remark that it can be amended later," he said.

Editorial Calls for Audit of Parties' Books

BK1112011591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Dec 91 p A8

[Editorial: "Audit Parties' Books To Deter Misuse of Funds"]

[Text] Under the new Constitution the election campaign spending limit has been doubled to Bt [Thai Baht] 700,000. But this amount is realistically speaking still far too small for candidates in hotly contested constituencies, where ex-MPs prepare to spend at least Bt5 million each to ensure their re-election and newcomers need at least twice that much to unseat the incumbents. Vote-buying and other forms of election cheating will be sued regardless of how many teams of independent poll observers are formed to monitor the election campaign, the voting and the counting of ballots.

The Cabinet apparently recognized the potential problem and tried to come up with new preventive measures last Tuesday. The election law will be amended to the effect that "any person involved" in a general election can directly seek legal redress against vote-buying and cheating by asking the court to nullify the election result in a particular constituency in question. Previously only a provincial governor or the interior minister could inititate such action, but few ever used this power despite the widespread vote-buying and election irregularities.

If the amendment is approved by the National Assembly, any of the losers in the next general election will be able to file a complaint with authorities and demand an official investigation if they have concrete evidence to implicate the winners of criminal wrongdoing. Perhaps voters and poll observers could also get a piece of the action by suing politicians whom they believe have won by unscrupulous means. But the most likely result of all this is a massive headache and an avalanche of paper work for the courts and other authorities concerned. Therefore the National Assembly must define what it means for a person to be "involved" in a general election.

The Cabinet also wants political parties' books to be audited in the same way business firms are checked out by independent, certified accountants and tax officials. This in the long run will prove a more effective measure against the misuse of money in election campaigns and embezzlement of campaign contributions by party executives. At present there is no serious attempt by authorities to check the financial recores of the parties, with parties' books being formally audited only after they have been dissolved.

Many veteran politicans seem to have fallen into the bad habit of pocketing campaign contributions instead of passing them on to their party treasurer. Bribes are also often disguised as political contributions, as in many cases uncovered by the anti-graft Sit Committee in its investigation of the "unusually wealthy" politicians in the Chatchai administration. And senior party executives who hold Cabinet posts, especially those in the economic ministries, are expected tor aise hundreds of millions of baht—part of which goes into the party's war chest while the rest is stashed away in secret bank accounts at home and broad for party executives to keep for a rainy day.

A regular and scrupulous audit of the books would show up the existence of at least part of these mammoth funds as well as their movements. Perhaps a new law is needed to encourage open contribution to political parties. The Michai committee advocated government subsidies to political parties to help them cope financially so that they depend less on secret funding from questionable sources. But the subsidy was removed from the final draft.

Certainly, political parties need a great deal of money to function properly. If they don't get open contributions regularly, they have to find money somewhere and somehow. Unfortunately, the quickest way tomake big money is through abuse of political power.

Perhaps political contributions up to a reasonable amount can be amde tax-deductable for both individuals and business firms. But this would certainly not end the unscrupulous practice of politicans secretly accepting gift cheques of seven or eight figures and claiming them as "campaign contributions".

The only thing that will end this is rigorous and unyielding enforcement of the law—when such politicians start being jailed for the criminal practice.

Officials Preview Thai-U.S. Trade Talks

BK1112012991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Dec 91 p B1

[Text] U.S. President George Bush may push Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to consider liberalizing the Thai financial market when the two leaders meet in Washington, DC this week.

Politics and trade are expected to top the agenda of the American president and Thai prime minister.

Thailand is currently one of three foreign countries identified by the U.S. for possible retaliation under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1988 for failure to provide adequate protection for American intellectual property rights, leading to rampant piracy of U.S. films, music tapes, trademarks and pharmaceutical patents.

Anan will likely try to convince Bush that Thailand has made substantial progress in strengthening the country's patent, copyright and trademark laws.

The U.S. has been particularly aggressive at previous bilateral tradetalks in demanding that Thailand allow greater access to U.S. financial institutions wishing to do business here.

But Thai officials want a distinction made between finance and services as a whole and trade issues, since the Thai financial system is still relatively weak.

The officials are calling for strengthening of local financial institutions udner a steady and cautious liberalization programme for fear that they would be at a disadvantage if foreign firms were allowed to operate freely here.

A senior Bank of Thailand official, who asked not to be identified, said: "If the financial issue is tied to the trade issue, and concessions in the former case have to be made, the result might not be worthwhile as local financial institutions will be serverely damaged."

Liberalization of the service sector, which includes banking, insurance, shipping and telecommunications, is being discussed in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt).

The Bank of Thailand is trying to guide the local financial system in a way deemed suitable for eventual liberalization of the financial market.

The process began with Thailand agreeing to abide by clauses under Article 8 of the International Monetary Fund on May 21, 1990. In addition, two phases of foreign exchange liberalizaiton have already been implemented.

The source said Thailand, along with nine other Asian central banks including that of Korea, favoured a steady liberalization programme in the finance sector, depending on the development needs of each country.

In contrast, the U.S. and the European Community have been demanding full access to foreign financial markets in the current Uruguay Round negotiations, which have stalled over differences between the U.S. and E.C. on farm subsidy cuts.

Despite the constant push by Washington during previous bilateral talks, Bangkok has maintained that it would continue to follow the reciprocity policy regarding provison of access to foreign banks. If the U.S. allows Thai banks to operate freely, the Thai central bank will let the same number of American banks open branches here, the policy dictates.

However, the Thai central bank will reserve the right not to grant "national" treatment to foreign banks that effectively restrict the establishment of provincial outlets and activities of their counterparts.

Among the demands the U.S. has put to Thailand are total market access to establish and expand branches as well as the right to freely acquire Thai banks. Currently, there is a foreign shareholding limit in Thai banks of 25 percent.

The U.S. wants foreign banks to be able to introduce new financial services without restrictions. It also seeks equal treatment for foreign banks and their full participation in the local payment and clearing systems as well as official refinancing facilities.

Thailand, on the other hand, has always adhered to the policy of steady liberalization, though there is a move a foot to have all banks engage in business conducted by finance companies. New mutual fund licences are being issued and the privilege may soon be extended to foreign financial institutions.

"What we are doing is in accordance with Gatt rules and principles.

It is just that local financial institutions are not ready while the local laws and regulations are not standardized for complete market access," the source said.

He said the chance of equal national treatment being given to foreign banks was slim at present due to the varying financial capabilities of local banks and different scale between Thai and foreign banks. For example, Bangkok Bank, Thailand's largest bank, would not be able to compete with Citibank, Bank of America, Chase Manhattan Bank of other leading Japanese and European banks.

"The Bank of Thailand needs another 3-5 years to build a firm foundation for local financial institutions to meet international standards, to open up the financial market and to make Bangkok a regional financial centre," he said.

The key factor in successful launching of a regional financial centre is a country's financial and fiscal strength as well as its economic stability.

Trade Board Views 'Massive' Indochina Investment

BK1112013991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Dec 91 p B1

[Text] Massive Thai investment in Indochina might be inevitable as Thailand may no longer be considered a viable production base for some industries in the future, according to a report by the Board of Trade of Thailand.

The report listed industries which are suffering from a shortage of raw materials, employ low production technology and rely on low-cost labour as likely to have to shift their production base from Thailand to Indochina (Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam).

It said such transfers will enable Thai industries to save on production costs, helping the country's goods remain competitive in the world market.

Of the three Indochinese countries, the report said Laos has the highest potential for foreign trade and investment as it prepares to develop basic services and infrastructure such as construction of transportation facilities and hydro-power projects and utilization of various energy resources and forestry areas.

The report, which examined Thai trade and investment opportunities in the three Indochinese countries, said the investment climate in Laos has improved since the government decided to transform the centralized economy into a free market system.

The new economic policy stresses the role of the private sector as entrepreneur in order to bring rapid growth in small-scale businesses such as trade, handicraft production and services.

On July 25, 1988, the Laotian government enacted an investment promotion law which, according to the report, is essential for future expansion of foreign investment in the landlocked country.

The report said the low labour costs in Laos make it a suitable site for the transfer of industries with high production costs from Thailand. It added that Thailand and Laos can establish industrial zones along their common border where Laotian raw materials and labour combined with Thai technicians and skilled workers produce goods for export to third countries.

The report, however, said there are still problems hindering investment in Laos including the lack of roads and telephone/telecommunications system; inability of financial institutions to accommodate large investment projects; small market and low purchasing power of Laotians; instability of the Lao currency and inaccessibility to the sea.

In Cambodia, the report said Thai investors should look into investment prospects in the fields of agriculture, agro-industry, industry, construction, finance and banking and tourism.

According to the report, Cambodia has abundant raw materials for use in furniture and paper pulp manufacturing, rubber processing, gems cutting, and cement and canned seafood production. It said Thai businessmen should invest in the construction of hotels and production of consumer goods such as soap, detergent, garments and footwear.

Investment in Cambodia, however, also poses problems such as a lack of skilled workers, people's low purchasing power, an uncertain political situation and inadequate basic infrastructure.

It recommended that the Thai government help restore Cambodia's economy before general elections are held by promoting Thai private business and investment.

For Thai firms interested in investing in Vietnam, the report pointed to production of consumer goods, electrical appliances, farm and fisheries equipment, canned seafood and animal feed; the hotel and tourism businesses; banking and insurance; sea transportation and mining.

Trade With Chile To Rise 'Significantly'

BK1112014791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Dec 91 p B12

[Text] Trade and investment between Thailand and Chile will rise significantly after the opening of the Association of the Chilean-Thai Chamber of Commerce, association President Somchai Phakaphatwiwat said.

Somchai, a former adviser to the Stock Exchange of Thailand, said the association was founded to promote expansion of trade and investment between Thailand and the South American nation.

He said growth in Thai-Chile bilateral trade and investment will enhance Thailand's opportunities in other Latin American countries and eventually the United States.

Thai investors will benefit from the Generalized System of Preferences between the Chile and Mexican governments as exports from Chile to Mexico, which will then flow north into the United States, are not subject to export tax, Somchai said.

Although current trade between Thailand and Chile is considered low, representing only 0.01 per cent of Thailand's total foreign trade, Somchai said bilateral trade between the two countries is likely to reach Bt [bhat] 40 million this year and increase to Bt100 million in the next three years.

He said bilateral trade between Thailand and Chile is expected to expand by 40-50 percent annually and will account for 0.05 percent of Thailand's total foreign trade in the next five years.

Somchai voiced the belief that trade and investment between Thailand and Latin America will increase in the future, citing Latin countries' interest in doing busines with Thailand and the Thai government's policy of promoting trade with the Americas.

Thai exports to Chile include air conditioners, artificial flowers, batteries, garments and canned food while imported goods range from coffee and fluoride to iron and paper pulp.

Somchai said he will register the association with the Commercial Registration Department in the next two months. The association will provide such services as distributing information, arranging seminars and training and organizing trade exhibitions for its members and the general public.

Contract With Arianespace To Launch Satellite

BK1112021191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Dec 91 p 19

[Text] Shinawatra Computer and Communications [and] Arianespace recently signed the launch contract for Thailand's first telecommunications satelite, THAILANDSAT 1, at the Westin Stamford Hotel in Singapore.

THAILANDSAT 1 is the first of the new SDS (Spelda Dedicated Satellite) class defined by Arianespace to meet the specific needs of space telecommunications. This class of satellite averages about one metric ton at liftoff.

The satellite will be built by the Hughes Aircraft Company of El Segundo, Los Angeles (California), and will provide telephone, telex, data and TV transmission services for all of Thailand.

THAILANDSAT 1 marks the 10th launch contract signed by Arianespace in 1991. As of December 6, 1991, Arianespace had a backlog of 35 satellites to be launched, worth about $2.7 billion.

Thai-Saudi Relations Viewed by Columnist

BK0712104991 Bangkok KHAO PISET in Thai 11 Nov 91 pp 18-21

["Special report" by Chetpiya Siriwra: "Thailand-Saudi Arabia; Relations Amidst a Desert Storm"]

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun disclosed at the time the World Bank conference was held in Bangkok that there was a high possibility that Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun might visit Saudi Arabia.

To back up the above revelation, Sakthip Krairoek, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, told KHAO PHISET that it was true and that the plan was initiated by Thailand. Saudi Arabia had already approved it in principle. There would be more discussions to find out what would be a convenient time for both sides. The main purpose of the visit is to improve relations, which have cooled off and strained as a result of two cases— the theft of Saudi jewelry and the murder of four officials of the Saudi Embassy in Thailand, an incident which prompted Saudi Arabia to close the door to Thai workers and resulted in a serious loss to the Thai labor sector and an overall economic loss to the country.

There used to be an annual flow of over 20,000 million baht from the Middle East countries into Thailand, a yearly income from remittances from about 150,000 Thai workers. Of these workers, 130,000 were hired by Saudi Arabia. It was once estimated that the number of Thai workers in Saudi Arabia, both with and without work permits, stood at 200,000. Next to Saudi Arabia was Kuwait, where about 6,000 Thai workers were employed. Such a big gap.

Saudi Arabia was the biggest source of income for fortune-hunting workers from Thailand. When relations turned sour following the two mentioned incidents, Saudi Arabia, realizing Thailand's weakness in its dependence on the labor market, decided to stop issuing entry visas for Thai workers and suspend issuance of re-entry visas for Thai workers already hired there whose visas had expired. Saudi Arabia was unhappy with Thailand's failure to settle the issue of the Saudi jewelry theft case. Saudi Arabia in fact seemed to be pleased with the result of the investigation. But later on it turned out that the theft case also involved the people in "khaki". Concerning Thailand's investigation into the murder of four Saudi diplomats in Thailand early last year, a Muslim of the name "Suchat Herabi" was arrested as a suspect by Thai police. The arrest prompted the strong criticism that the man was just a "scape goat" to please Saudi Arabia. No matter what the truth was, the court finally declared Suchat innocent. Those two issues are the main reasons for the anger of Saudi Arabia against Thailand since February last year.

To make up for Saudi Arabia's charge that Thailand was not serious about investigations into the two cases, Thailand had to do something because the economic loss caused by Saudi Arabia's denial of entry to Thai workers was immense. Those Thai workers seeking jobs abroad are mostly farm-workers who are desperate for work. Thailand has therefore mounted diplomatic efforts while pursuing investigations into the two cases to convince Saudi Arabia of its concern.

The resumption of investigations into the murder of Saudi diplomats by Police Lieutenant General Thanu Homhuan of the Metropolitan Police yielded some progress, and the officer even guaranteed that the suspect arrested, Muni Ahmad, was not a scapegoat despite the fact that the arrest was made by international police. It was concluded that the murder of Saudi diplomats was carried out because the victims acted against the interests of a Mafia gang in Thailand. This Mafia group was responsible for the death of some 70 Saudi tourists earlier. There was a sigh of relief from Thailand that the murder was not the work of Thai people (and that Saudi Arabia should no longer harbor any mistrust for Thailand). Meanwhile, the case of the jewelry theft remained unsettled. Yet, Thailand made clear its intention to take action in order to please Saudi Arabia.

Thus, simultaneously with the police investigation, the Anan Panyarachun government also pursued diplomatic channels to settle the problem. An example of this was a visit to Saudi Arabia by the minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, and his meeting with Prince Nayif, the Saudi interior minister, during which the Thai minister presented to the latter a message from his majesty the king expressing concern for relations between the two countries and informing the latter that he had instructed authorities to speed up investigation into the sensational case which had shocked everyone.

There was an improvement in Saudi Arabia's attitude. Saudi Charge d'Affaires in Thailand Muhamaad Sa'id Khujah had a meeting with the Thai prime minister in June, one month after the visit to Saudi Arabia by the minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office. There was hope that Khujah's meeting with the Thai prime minister would help relieve the problem of Thai workers in Saudi Arabia. It happens that Saudi Arabia has since relaxed the suspension of visa renewal for Thai workers returning to work in Saudi Arabia. Sakthip Krairoek told KHAO PHISET that the prime minister's visit to Saudi Arabia might take place in the near future, should there be no other obstacles coming from Saudi Arabia. But alas....

Thailand has been trying to clarify everything into in order to please Saudi Arabia. Yet, it is difficult to restore bilateral relations to a normal state if Saudi Arabia insists upon holding Thailand as a pawn on a political chessboard involving a problem which is solely a problem of Saudi Arabia. A highly placed source at Thailand's security agency said that Saudi Arabia believed that the murder of its diplomats in Thailand involved hostility between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Animosity between the two countries existed a long time ago and it burst out when Saudi Arabia started implementing a 5 percent quota for the Shiite Muslims visiting Mecca for the Hajj. The quota limitation made the Shiite Muslims angry. And the base of the Shiite sect is Iran, which had already been at odds with Saudi Arabia. In 1987, Iranian pilgrims clashed with Saudi police, resulting in 402 being killed in the riots during the Hajj. Two years after that, in September, the Shiite Muslims carried out a sabotage during the ceremony. Saudi authorities arrested 16 Shiite Muslims holding Kuwaiti passports and ordered all of them executed. It was learned afterwards that, of the sixteen, ten were Iranians. Since then, news spread that there would be revenge for the sixteen through the killings of an equal number of Saudis. Major targets would be Saudi diplomats posted at various foreign countries. It should be noted that, close to the killings of Saudi diplomats in Bangkok, there were murders of diplomats in Beirut, Angkara, Brussels, and Karachi. Pro-Iranian terrorists claimed responsibility for the incidents. Saudi newspapers, which are the government mouthpiece, proclaimed rightout that the group responsible for the murder of diplomats in Thailand was a pro-Iranian group. In short, Saudi Arabia did not think that the murder of its diplomats in Thailand had anything to do with the interests of the Mafia group of a certain "Muni Ahmad." Rather, Saudi Arabia believed that the murder involved its political problem with Iran. The same source told KHAO PHISET that Saudi Arabia wanted Thailand to send the suspect to Saudi Arabia so that he could identify the Iranian terrorists believed to be in a network. But Thailand could not comply with the Saudi wish due to the fact that the suspect had already been acquitted by the court and returned to the fold of society, being labelled a scapegoat. Also, Thailand was not sure what kind of a treatment the suspect would receive from Saudi Arabia, whether he would be sent back to Thailand or whether the whole issue would blow up into a problem between Thailand and Iran. Such undisclosed facts could cause a crisis in relations between Thailand and Saudi Arabia. Thus, Suchat Herabi was quite lucky to be spared the fate of an international scapegoat for the sake of Saudi Arabia's pursuit of vengence against Iran.

There is no question about the importance of the Thai prime minister's visit to Saudi Arabia, in terms of economic significance, since it is clear how much Thailand depends on the export of labor to that country. For this reason, it would be difficult to see Thailand as an equal country paying a visit to Saudi Arabia in honor and pomp. What we can expect from Prime Minister Anan's visit is only a normalization of relations between both countries, that is, a mere appeasement of Saudi Arabia's anger and an opening of its arms to Thai workers. That should be our greatest expectation.

What have we learned from this issue? This is a question we put to the Anan government as well as the future governments. Isn't it about time now to adjust our diplomatic approach? Instead of being in a defensive mode, shouldn't we advance and look for bigger opportunities, such as exploring for new markets for our labor exports in order to reduce the risk coming from the only market we have in Saudi Arabia? Have we explored opportunities in countries like India, Pakistan, Yenmen, or even Iran. [Labor leader] Prasit Chaithongphan told KHAO PHISET that those countries have already expressed interest in Thai labor, but he noted that the

Thai Government is not keen on "small" markets. There has been no effort made to clear the way for our labor exports to Taiwan and Japan, despite the fact that they could be big markets for Thai labor exports. Contacts should have been made with the internationally known construction company, Bechtel, which has won a bid for reconstruction work in Kuwait, since the company was once hired as a consultant to Thailand's Southern Seaboard Development Program. We could have asked the company to think of our workers when it begins the work in Kuwait. There has been no report from the Labor Department concerning this.

Samak Sunthorawet [leader of the Prachakon Thai Party] is another person who disagreed with the "defensive" policy adopted by Thailand with regards to Saudi Arabia. He told KHAO PHISET that the policy was not substantiated by good reasons and that we should look for new markets for Thai workers. In fact, he wants the government to create jobs in the country for Thai workers. If this were seriously undertaken, Samak believed that there would be enough jobs for Thai workers.

Anyway, it is difficult to change the attitude of the Foreign Ministry or the policy of the Thai Government. A schedule is being worked out for Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's visit to Saudi Arabia. It seems that Thailand is having fun braving the strong wind of the desert storm. The sky may look bright and clear, yet the strong wind has not calmed down. By nature, it is difficult to predict when are we going to face a storm. And when the storm is there, we can only expect to be buried under the sand.

Vietnam

Eighth National Assembly Session Begins Work

Vo Van Kiet Gives Address

BK1012135191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Station correspondent Dao Nguyen's report on opening of Eighth National Assembly's 10th session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi on 10 December]

[Summary] Dear friends, this morning, 10 December, the 10th session of the Eighth National Assembly opened at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi. "Attending the opening session were comrades Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State; Nguyen Van Linh and Pham Van Dong, advisers to the party Central Committee; Vo Van Kiet, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, many other party and state leaders, representatives of the diplomatic corps, and newsmen from press agencies at home and abroad."

At 0900 sharp, the 10th session of the Eighth National Assembly began. [Band plays the national anthem] Afterward, Comrade Le Quang Dao delivered an opening speech. He said:

[Begin Le Quang Dao recording] "At this session, the National Assembly will discuss the Council of Ministers' report on the implementation of the National Assembly resolution and the 1991 socioeconomic tasks; decide on the socioeconomic guidelines and tasks for the 1991-95 five-year period and the socioeconomic tasks for 1992; consider the Council of Ministers' report on the implementation of the Eighth National Assembly resolution and the 1991 State Budget; decide on the 1992 State Budget estimate; approve the general and final account of the 1990 State Budget; hear a report on the Council of Ministers concerning the enforcement of law against corruption and smuggling; and make other essential decisions. The National Assembly will adopt a bill on Vietnam Civil Aviation and a bill on export-import taxes; give its views on the draft bill on the election of National Assembly deputies; discuss reports reviewing the activities of the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Organ of Control during the Eighth National Assembly terms; hear a report of the Council of Ministers on the foreign affairs of our state during the second half of 1991, a report on foreign affairs guidelines for 1992, and make decisions on other important issues." [end recording]

Dear friends, following National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao's speech, Comrade Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers, delivered a report appraising the implementation of the 1991 socioeconomic tasks and stressing the socioeconomic guidelines for 1992.

"Appraising the implementation of the 1991 socioeconomic tasks, Comrade Vo Van Kiet said that in 1991 we experienced many ordeals, difficulties, and adverse weather conditions that caused serious damage to the winter-spring crops in the North—more than one million tonnes of grain were destroyed. We also experienced major flash floods in the Mekong River Delta and in Son La, Lai Chau, and other central provinces. Changes in the Soviet Union and other East European countries have caused difficulties and serious disturbances in the export-import markets. However, generally speaking, in 1991 our economic situation was not declining but continued to improve with some positive growth. Our national income increased by 2.4 percent compared to 1990; grain production output reached 21.7 million tonnes. The prices of rice and paddy have been stabilized. Industrial production output increased by 5.3 percent over that of 1990, of which industries at the central level increased by 16 percent. The volume of important products increased considerably, while a number of merchandises gained credit in the competing markets, thus overcoming difficulties in selling and helping to develop production. Our export value was approximately $1.6 billion, thus meeting requirements for importing raw materials and essential goods. This has marked outstanding progress in changing the course of the market and in balancing exports and imports. Direct foreign investment in Vietnam has increased as compared to previous years. Many major projects are taking shape in addition to those projects involving oil and gas exploitation."

Evaluating these achievements, Comrade Vo Van Kiet stressed:

[Begin Vo Van Kiet recording] "We assert that while firmly maintaining political security, we will strive to prevent our economy from facing major disturbances. The result of this task is of great significane in the implementation of the renovation undertaking set by the Sixth CPV Congress, and is being carried out in 1991 in the direction of shifting to a market-based economy and further developing the capability of various economic components. The new economic mechanism has helped pinpoint weak economic units, and has opened up opportunities for other economic units to develop their dynamism and creativity to overcome difficulties and enhance their business results. Guidance and supervision by sectors and echelons have also improved. Most striking are the areas of managing, balancing, and regulating grain distribution, changing the course of the market, promoting foreign trade, and controlling the issuance of money for the state budget. However, generally speaking, our socioeconomic situation is still developing in a complicated manner. The inflation rate is still high, the prices of gold and dollars continue to climb. For many months now, the flow of gold and dollars across the border has not stopped. Industrial production has not stabilized, while debts have been extended. Small industries and handicrafts, in general, are deteriorating. Economic accumulations are minimal, while the population growth rate is still high. The number of unemployed persons has increased, while a large segment of our people still face difficulties in their daily life. Such phenomena as disobeying the law, extortion, oppression, and corruption are still prevalent to a serious degree. Moreover, smuggling, counterfeit goods, illegal trade, and other social vices have not been eliminated.

"The above-mentioned situation cannot be overcome overnight, due to profound causes and objective factors. Nevertheless, subjectively speaking, the underlying cause lies in the fact that there still exist shortcomings in the macromanagement policy. Particularly as far as financial management is concerned, the bad practices of dispersing assets, lacking close control over budget revenues and spending, and granting subsidies to capital and credit services, as well as the absence of an effective foreign exchange control system, an economical use of foreign currency, and timely foresight and effective prevention against the drain of gold and dollars still drag on.

"No prompt efforts have been made to reorganize the state economy, the collective economy, and import-export trade. The organizations of the mechanism and cadre-related work still cannot keep pace with the requirements of the new situation. This is particularly true regarding the central level, where many cadres do not meet set qualification requirements, and others are rated poor in terms of competence and quality. No substantial results have been achieved in cadre retraining and screening to meet new management requirements set for state organs and business establishments." [end recording]

"Based on strong points and shortcomings displayed in the 1991 socioeconomic development program, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet presented the main orientations for our country's socioeconomic development program for 1992. The comrade said:"

[Begin Vo Van Kiet recording] "Regarding the key objectives of this period, continued efforts are needed to accelerate the renovation undertaking in order to lead the country out of a socioeconomic crisis and create momentum for faster results. Toward this end, it is imperative to establish order and discipline according to the new mechanism, making progress while at the same time taking steps to gradually improve market ties and other social relations. By so doing, one can create the circumstances and conditions for bringing into full play all potential, in terms of manpower, knowledge, land, natural resources, capital, and other assets available in each household, each collective, and society as a whole.

"At the same time, efforts must be made to fully and effectively exploit new factors in order to broaden external economic relations. It is necessary to formulate sound policies to meet the requirements of the situation, to fully exploit all potential, and to take advantage of all favorable conditions to accelerate the socioeconomic stabilization and development program.

"The aforementioned tasks and solutions—implementing an anti-inflation program; gaining higher labor productivity; building key projects; settling the unemployment problem; adjusting the wage system a step further; consolidating and improving the quality of educational, public healthcare, cultural, and scientific activities; restoring and developing public utility projects; and maintaining national defense and national security—pose great, urgent problems, and require many sources of strength, especially capital.

"In its report to the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers has defined the forms, policies, and measures to exploit all sources of strength in and outside the country, with special importance being attached to those measures necessary to fully exploit all sources of strength in the country and to bring into full play all national potential.

"One of the important factors is that in 1992, efforts must be made to effect a basic state budget adjustment covering budget-balancing measures, improvement of the budget allotment control system, establishment of financial discipline, and enhancement of financial affairs and state management inspection. We must determine the state's power to mobilize and distribute socioeconomic gains through a budget allocation system in order to resolve the basic wage problem step by step.

"The rate of contribution to the current state budget remains low compared with those countries having the same level of development as our country. We still cannot expect that the rate of budget revenues will quickly increase in 1992. However, we must bear in mind that an effective, uniform budget would help increase the sources of revenue due to an adequate collection system, a close revenue management network, a plan to avoid losses, and measures to economize on spending. Such moves would create conditions for the state to meet a number of very urgent spending requirements. [applause]" [end recording]

To guarantee conditions for fulfilling the 1992 socioeconomic tasks and for creating momentum for the subsequent years, Comrade Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet set forth a number of concrete issues to be resolved in 1992, as follows:

"First of all, it is necessary to effect basic changes in the state budget, both in the decentralization of budget control and promulgation of a series of uniform regulations allowing the central government to exert overall budget control in order to achieve uniform control over national financial assets. It is important to readjust budget allocations to meet regular spending requirements and to set aside money for debt payment purposes. The government will be responsible for obtaining loans to meet the requirements of investment in the development of the socioeconomic infrastructure. As for investment in state-run business operations, which has so far been funded by the state budget, the state-run business sector must obtain loans itself based on its own business needs."

"Comrade Vo Van Kiet also presented solutions to the implementation of the social policies for 1992 and subsequent years."

"Also at this morning's session, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Hoang Quy, minister of finance, briefed the National Assembly on the implementation of the 1991 State Budget and the 1992 State Budget estimates."

Communique No. 1 Issued

BK1012152391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Communique No. 1 of the 10th session of the Eighth National Assembly]

[Text] This morning, 10 December 1991, after the National Assembly deputies had paid their tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, the 10th session of the Eighth National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] was solemnly opened at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi.

Attending the opening session were Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, advisor to the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State; Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, advisor to the party Central Committee; Comrade Pham Van Dong, advisor to the party Central Committee; and Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Also attending the opening session were many members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of various international organizations in Vietnam.

Following the opening speech of National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao, the National Assembly heard the following:

1. A report presented by Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet on the 1991 socioeconomic situation and the socioeconomic development tasks for 1992 and the 1991-95 five-year period.

2. A report by Minister of Finance Hoang Quy, who, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, briefed the National Assembly on the implementation of the 1991 state budget and the 1992 state budget estimates, as well as the general accounts of the 1990 state budget.

3. Minister of Justice Phan Hien, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, read an additional report on law enforcement and violations.

4. State General Inspector Nguyen Ky Cam, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, read an additional report on the development of the anti-corruption drive.

5. Minister of Trade and Tourism Le Van Triet, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, read an additional report on smuggling and anti-smuggling work.

6. Mai Thuc Lan, vice chairman of the National Assembly Economic, Planning, and Budget Committee, read the committee's report on the 1991-95 socioeconomic tasks, the 1992 socioeconomic plan, and the 1992 state budget estimates, as well as the general accounts of the 1990 state budget.

The National Assembly will continue to hold a plenary session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall on the morning of 11 December 1991.

Communique No. 2 Issued

BK1112152791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1450 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Communique No. 2 of the 10th session of the Eighth National Assembly]

[Text] On 11 December, the National Assembly held a plenary session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi. National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao directed the session.

In the morning session, the National Assembly heard:

1. Tran Do, head of the Culture and Education Committee of the National Assembly, read his committee's report on culture and education work and its legal enforcement.

2. Nguyen Manh Cam, minister of foreign affairs, read the Council of Ministers' report on our state's foreign affairs work in the last six months of 1991 and foreign affairs orientations for the days ahead; and Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the National Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee, read her committee's report on foreign affairs.

3. Bui Danh Luu, minister of communications, transportation and post—on behalf of the Council of Ministers—read the draft bill of the Civil Aviation Law of Vietnam and Mrs. Ngo Ba Thanh, head of the National Assembly's Judiciary Committee, read an examination report on this draft bill.

In the afternoon session, the National Assembly heard:

4. Hoang Quy, minister of finance—on behalf of the Council of Ministers—read a report on the revised draft law on export-import taxes; Mai Thuc Lan, deputy head of the National Assembly's Economic, Planning, and Budget Committee, read an investigative report on this draft law; and Nguyen Tai, deputy head of the National Assembly's Judiciary Committee, gave his views on the same draft law.

5. Nguyen Viet Dung, general secretary of the Council of State, read the Council of State's report asking the National Assembly for its views over the timing for the election of the Ninth National Assembly deputies and for extending the term of office of the Eighth National Assembly by two more months.

On the evening of the same day and tomorrow, 12 December, the National Assembly deputies hold group discussions.

Vo Van Kiet Meets Returning Athletes 10 Dec

BK1012153691 Hanoi VNA in English 1512 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 10—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet this afternoon had a cordial meeting with the Vietnamese team freshly back from the 16th Southeast Asian Games [SEA] in Manila.

Also present on this occasion were Tran Hoa, minister of culture, information and sports, and sport leaders of varous provinces and cities.

Congratulating the athletes Chairman Vo Van Kiet said: "In the difficult conditions of the country, the success obtained by our team is praiseworthy. It has brought honor to our people. However, we must strive more to catch up with the level in the region."

Chairman Vo Van Kiet presented a labor order, second class, of the state council, to Nguyen Thi Dong who broke the Asian record in the standard rifle prone event.

Minister Tran Hoan, for his part, presented certificates of merit of the Council of Ministers to ten other athletes with outstanding achievements at the SEA games.

Do Muoi's Second Plenum Address, Part 1

BK1012081991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 8 Dec 91

["Part one" of Party General Secretary Do Muoi's Address at the Second Plenum of the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Held from 25 November to 4 December in Hanoi—read by announcer]

[Text] We have recently renovated the political system step by step to meet the requirements of socioeconomic renovation. The present situation demands and allows us to basically renovate the political system a step further in a more systematic and steadier manner, in order to emphasize more profoundly, uniformly, and comprehensively the contents of the renovation process initiated and led by our party.

To carry out that renovation step, at this plenum, the party Central Committee will express its opinion on the amendment of the Constitution. This is a very important task. Before discussing the amendment of the Constitution, on behalf of the political bureau, I would like to present some fundamental viewpoints and guidelines for reforming a step further the state machinery and renovating party leadership over the state. These two most important issues in the renovation of the political system should be thoroughly understood in amending the Constitution, as well as in the course of implementing the amended Constitution.

Following the success of the August Revolution, a new political system was born, in which the Democratic Republic of Vietnam [DRV] state, and later the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV], have played an extremely important historic role in the national revolution. Ever since then and forevermore, our state remains the state of the people, by the people, and for the people. The birth of the state of Vietnam has resulted from the long struggle, replete with hard and dangerous sacrifices by our people and is the nation's great revolutionary gain that all our people must defend resolutely.

Implementing the sixth party congress resolution, we have achieved some progress in renovating the political system, the organization and operating procedures of the state machinery, and the party leadership over the state, to meet the requirements of the revolution of our country in the present stage. However, this is only the first step. There still are many theoretical and practical issues that must be continually studied, sought after, and gradually perfected.

Faced with the comprehensive renovation requirement of the country, and focusing on economic renovation, the political system has elicited many shortcomings and discrepancies, of which the biggest discrepancy is that the machinery of the party, state, and mass organizations have not reflected nor implemented adequately the people's right to mastery. The system of responsibility is not clear, the organization is very cumbersome, the manual work method lacks order and discipline and is ineffective, and bureaucratism and corruption are quite prevalent and serious. As a result, reforming the state machinery constitutes an objective requirement of the renovation process and of the present national construction and defense.

Amending the Constitution and reforming the state machinery is not at all a change in the nature of the political system and of our state. It is mainly aimed at intensifying the effectiveness of social management by the state, building socialist democracy, and strengthening socialist law, enabling the suprastructure to bring into play its role of promoting and paving way for the development of infrastructure.

The renovation process in general, and the reform of the state machinery in particular, constitute a process that must be carried out positively and expeditiously. However, we must be careful and cannot be impatient and hasty. We must calculate every step steadily to ensure the firm maintenance and intensification of political stability and to promote socioeconomic development, especially at a time when the country is rife with difficulties and the international situation remains very complex and full of changes, as it is presently.

This renovation process must be firmly based on the creative application of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought, and be derived from the actual conditions of the country and the experiences gained in building the state of Vietnam over the past few decades, taking into account the advanced practices and knowledge available.

It should be stressed that party leadership over the state is a basic condition and an objective requirement to ensure that the state can maintain its nature of being the state of the people, by the people, and for the people, and keep the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance as a base, in order to implement ever more adequately the people's right to mastery, mobilize and tap all aspects of the country's potential, and struggle to build socialism successfully.

In the past few years, our party committed some shortcomings, such as confusing the party function with that of the state. The party undertook the tasks of the state. In some given localities and at a certain time, phenomena such as arbitrariness and dictatorship also occurred, making the state agencies formalistic and unable to bring their effectiveness into play. We are correcting these shortcomings and are determined to correct them. However, this is not the reason for committing other mistakes and extremes which lead to slackening or lowering party leadership.

Experience in other countries has shown that if the grip on party leadership is loosened or tenuous to just a small degree conditions for opposition forces to seize power can immediately be created, revolutionary gains can be wiped out, and the country could be run counter to the people's interests.

We resolve to carry out the renovation process and, at the same time, reject all demagogic arguments that advance the label of wiping out monopolistic leadership and returning all power to the people under the pretext of renewing democracy. In fact, these arguments are attempts to wipe out party leadership and eliminate the people from the administration. Both theory and practice assert that intensifying party leadership and bringing into play the effectiveness of the state are two unified aspects. The basis of this unification is that although the party and the state hold different roles and functions which need to be clearly defined, they are both tools for implementing and promoting the people's right to mastery, and they both struggle for the people's interests.

Our party, which led the people to seize power, has been consistently recognized by the people. This requires the party to be most concerned with the practice of realizing democratic principles, and not letting principles remain slogans only.

The people have entrusted our party with leadership and, at the same time, have requested that the party enhance its pioneer character in both the domains of theory and of organization and implementation. Party cadres and members must enhance their ability, quality, and revolutionary ethics. Renovating the party leadership in general, and renovating party leadership over the state in particular, is mainly aimed at fulfilling this requirement.

83,000 People To Be Sent to U.S. in 1992

BK1112154791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1533 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi, Dec 11 (AFP)—Some 83,000 people from Vietnam, including Amerasians and collaborators of the former South Vietnamese regime and their families, will be allowed to go to the United States in 1992, the TUOI TRE youth magazine reported.

The director of the Orderly Departure Program (ODP) told Vietnam's authorities this number of immigrants would be admitted to the United States on the basis of a budget approved by congress, the magazine published in Ho Chi Minh City and received here Wednesday said.

The ODP was established in June 1979 under the aegis of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

The program is particularly aimed at the children of U.S. fathers and Vietnamese mothers born during the Vietnam War, people who collaborated with the Saigon regime toppled in 1975 and persons wanting to be reunited with relations already settled in the West.

Of these 83,000 people, 21,000 will be people who worked for the Saigon regime and their relatives and 17,000 will be Amerasians and their relatives, the magazine said.

It added that some 120,000 other people would be interviewed in 1992 by ODP officials for possible departure in following years.

According to the newspaper these figures were almost identical to those for 1991.

The magazine also reported that between now and January next year, 10 direct Lockheed L1011 flights would transport emigrants direct to the United States.

VNA Reports Export Success

BK1112094591 Hanoi VNA in English 0604 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 11—The Union of Vegetable Oil Enterprises, [words indistinct] Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, produced in the first 11 months of this year 5,350 tons of vegetable oil and earned more than 5.3 million US dollars through export.

By early December, the central province of Khanh Hoa (?had exported) 35,000 tons of white sand to Taiwan, the Philippines and South Korea, earning more than 308,000 US dollars.

Particularly since early the quarter, it (?had exported) nearly 23,000 tons,) including 18,000 tons to South Korea. This is attributed partly to the repair of Ba Ngoi harbour, Cam Ranh district, which now can be called at by freighters of up to 12,000 tons.

Vice Minister of Aquatic Products Visits Germany

BK0912074691 Hanoi VNA in English 0611 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 9—A seminar on Vietnam's aquatic potentials and possibilities of cooperation between Vietnam and Germany in this field was held in Bremen, Germany, from Nov.25- Dec.4.

The seminar, the first of its kind organized and financed by Germany, was attended by representatives of Bremen State's Development Cooperation Agency and 24 German companies as well as scientific institutions, and a Vietnamese delegation led by Vice Minister of Aquatic Products Dr. Vo Van Trac.

At the seminar, the Vietnamese chief delegate pointed to Vietnam's great aquatic potentials, aquaculture, aquatic product processing..., and expressed the wish for further development of aquatic cooperation between the two countries.

For their parts, German participants highly appreciated Vietnam's great aquatic potentials and expressed their willingness to cooperate with Vietnam in this field. For the immediate future, Germany will help Vietnam in training of technicians, managerial and marketing cadres for the aquatic branch.

Haiphong Official Delegation Visits Liuzhou City

BK1112032991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] A delegation of Haiphong City led by Comrade Bui Anh, chairman of the Haiphong People's Committee, paid a working visit to Liuzhou City on 26 November to 5 December at the invitation of Quangxi Province and the Liuzhou mayor.

The cities of Haiphong and Liuzhou signed an agreement on establishing and strengthening bilateral barter, setting guidelines for establishing joint venture enterprises for industrial food processing, truck manufacturing, and assembling of four and 12-seater vehicles.

The two cities also exchanged production and business experiences in cooperating with foreign countries in their renovation process and open-door policy. They agreed to exchange economists and expand social and cultural activities.

The Haiphong delegation invited the Liuzhou delegation to pay a working visit to Haiphong City in mid-January 1992.

Australia

Hawke Admits To 'Toughest' Leadership Challege

BK1112061291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0546 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] SYDNEY, Dec 11 (AFP)—Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke admitted Wednesday he was facing the toughest political battle of his career as pressure mounted over his faltering leadership.

With the question now being asked daily whether Hawke can even make it through to Christmas, the 62-year-old prime minister admitted for the first time Wednesday the tension that the leadership was creating.

"It's the toughest time I've had in politics," Hawke said.

But Australia's second longest serving leader said he would not step down and insisted he was still "miles in front" of challenger Paul Keating, whom he defeated in a ballot last June.

Hawke's comments followed opinion polls showing support for Labor falling in concert with his approval rating which was down by four points to 31 per cent, its lowest ever.

Newspapers gave wide coverage to reports his support among Labor MPs is also dwindling, and that the parliamentary party was to be summoned to a meeting unexpectedly next week.

Although the behind-the-scenes leadership feud has dominated political debate here for most of this year, it was suddenly thrust to the forefront by the demotion last week of Treasurer John Kerin.

Kerin's transfer after only six months in the job to another ministry followed new data showing Australia was still in deep recession.

In the June leadership ballot, Hawke won by 66 votes to 44, his strongest support coming from the Left faction which voted for him in a bloc, with a one or two exceptions.

But while Keating's original support is said to have remained solid, Hawke's is reported to have slipped by at least six MPs in the last few days with others likely to change sides.

One left wing senator, John Devereux, went on radio to say it was now unlikely his faction would provide bloc support for Hawke and that his position as leader was "not very secure".

Asked if he thought Hawke was "a goner", as one headline put it, Devereux said: "I don't know whether I'd say he's a goner, but there's some very worried people around in the caucus at the moment and he needs to take a real look at the situation and reassess the situation.

"The left as a bloc supported him previously, I don't think there'll even be an attempt for the left to vote as a bloc this time round if there's another ballot, which I hope there's not."

Devereux's comments followed similar remarks by others including right wing former Hawke supporter Harry Woods who suggested Keating as the solution to Labor's problems.

Others have been publicly identified as having switched camps in the last few days; one said Hawke should wait until the New Year visit by U.S. President George Bush then retire immediately without forcing a ballot.

But in a radio interview, a defiant Hawke accused some Labor colleagues of getting "increasingly desperate" because they knew the government's performance and the economy would improve.

"That may be why the wick has been turned up a bit in the last few days," he said. "Obviously some of them are very active.

"I prefer not to have a fight. But if I have to have a fight, then I will enter the fight with the necessary determination and relish which is required to win it."

Questioned about doubts about the role of the Left in supporting him in any leadership ballot, he said: "All I have been given to understand is that they remain solid."

The central bank had to intervene to support the Australian dollar which slipped in early trading amid speculation about Hawke's future. It slid to 77.22 U.S. cents after closing at 77.35 on Tuesday and was resisting attempts to prop it up, dealers said.

One dealer said the Reserve Bank of Australia "was rumoured to have intervened at 77.22 early today and again a short while ago," adding that it "may be trying to head off a currency collapse." "The offshore market would react badly if there was another leadership challenge," the dealer said.

Government To Sign Oil Treaty With East Timor

BK1112093491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0825 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Canberra, Dec 11 (AFP)—Australia will sign by Thursday an agreement with Indonesia to explore for oil in the Timor Gap despite the November 12 massacre in East Timor, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Wednesday.

Replying to a parliamentary question about whether in light of the massacre it was appropriate to sign, Evans said it was not a matter of "doing anything as simple as putting the treaty arrangements on ice".

So long as Canberra judged the massacre to be a "product of aberrant behaviour by a sub-group" rather than officially sanctioned by government it would be "utterly irresponsible" to do anything to damage bilateral relations, he said.

But he warned that if the investigation into the massacre now taking place in Indonesia should prove to be "manifestly unsatisfactory" Australia would be prepared to review its relationship with Indonesia.

An agreement under the Timor Gap treaty divides the treaty area between Australia and Indonesia, allowing 12 firms to explore for oil and gas in the area.

"The agreement being signed this week is very much pursuant to the treaty which already exists between Timor and Australia on the Timor Gap," Evans said.

"It would be a very serious matter indeed were Australia not to proceed with its obligations under that existing treaty arrangement freely entered into between two sovereign countries."

He said Australia had recognised Indonesia's sovereignty over East Timor in 1979, and that position had been repeated by the government in 1985.

But he described the Dili massacre as quite different to Tiananmen Square or to the South African Government's administration of apartheid.

Canberra did not believe on any available evidence that what happened in Dili was something that could be construed as a deliberate "act of government as such," he said.

"So long as we continue to make that judgment...it would be utterly inappropriate for us to take any step that would bring the bilateral relationship into disrepair.

"It would certainly be quite inappropriate of us to even contemplate taking a step so grave as to in effect tear up a solemn international treaty entered into between two countries."

Fiji

Trade Unions File Writ To Challenge New Laws

BK1112074491 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Trade unions in Fiji have filed a writ against the government challenging some of its new labor laws which restrict union membership and strike action. The writ claims parts of the Industrial Act are void because they contravene sections of the country's new constitution guaranteeing fundamental rights and freedoms.

It was filed by Fiji Public Service Association, the National Farmers Union, and the general secretary of the Fiji Trade Union Congress, Mahendra Chowdhury.

Vanuatu

Former Prime Minister To Stay Outside Coalition

BK1112094391 Hong Kong AFP in English 0733 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Port Vila, Dec 11 (AFP)—Vanuatu's former Prime Minister Walter Lini said Wednesday he will stay outside the coalition government which his National United Party (NUP) is forming with the French-speaking Union of Moderate Parties (UMP).

Speaking on Radio Vanuatu, Lini said the NUP agreed to join forces with the UMP only after attempts failed to forge a coalition of three English-speaking parties.

In last week's general election, the UMP won 19 of the 46 seats in parliament to 10 each for the NUP and the Vanua'aku Party (VP), which Lini had led for eleven years until he was dumped as party leader and then as prime minister in September.

The Melanesian Progressive Party (MPP), led by former VP official and Lini's one-time rival Barak Sope, won four and minority groups the other three.

The president of the UMP, Serge Vohor, said his party will hold seven cabinet posts including that of prime minister while the NUP will have five.

Officials at UMP headquarters said negotiations between the coalition partners on the distribution of portfolios were complete, but the names of ministers were unlikely to be announced until Friday.

Outgoing Prime Minister and VP leader Donald Kalpokas meanwhile warned that the government would have to raise new taxes if it is to go ahead with the UMP's campaign promises of free health and education services by next year.

In a statement broadcast by Radio Vanuatu on Wednesday, Kalpokas said the VP did not believe in so-called free services, which must be paid for by extra taxation.

Kalpokas said the VP would do its best to maintain good and strong opposition inside parliament for the next four years, until the next general election.

He called on VP supporters in Vanuatu's 80-odd islands to accept the results of the general election on December 2, which ended the VP's eleven-year grip on power since independence.

Lini confirmed reports that the NUP, the VP and MPP had tried to get together, but said efforts failed because the VP "has taken too long to consider the idea."

The NUP was the last party to negotiate with the UMP, Lini said, and agreed to join the coalition because it was "not right to leave the people of Vanuatu waiting in uncertainty."

Lini said he would not hold a portfolio in the government, but would remain as party leader to oversee party unity.

Vohor told AFP that the NUP supports the UMP's policy on land, tax and free education and health serives.

Besides the premiership, Vohor said, the UMP would hold the responsibility for home affairs, finance, natural resources,foreign affairs and education.

The UMP's portfolios will include agriculture, health and communications.

Western Samoa

Cyclone Val Decimates Vegetation, Infrastructure

BK1112081891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0801 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Wellington, Dec 11 (AFP)—Cyclone Val stripped up to 90 percent of the vegetation in parts of Western Samoa's largest island, Savai'i, and severely damaged housing, New Zealand Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said Wednesday.

His statement followed a survey by a New Zealand Air Force Orion aircraft, which was able to land at Western Samoa's damaged Faleolo Airport.

For the last five days Val has lashed both Western and American Samoa, causing at least seven deaths. Cyclone Ofa, in February 1990, claimed 11 lives, but by McKinnon said Val appears to wreaked more destruction.

On Wednesday night Val was in the northern Cook Islands, bringing wild weather to remote Palmerston Atoll and moving on a southeasterly course at eight knots with winds averaging 80 knots and gusts of 120 knots.

If it continues on its current course, it will pass south of the main island of Rarotonga where shops and homes are now shuttered in anticipation of the worst.

In Western Samoa, Savai'i, a little developed island, bore the brunt of Val and two hospitals—in Sataua and Tuasivi—were destroyed. Four people died in the Sataua hospital during the storm.

McKinnon gave the first comprehensive account of the Savai'i damage.

The air force crew reported that on the northern coast, the cyclone stripped 90 percent of vegetation, flattened 50 percent of palms, washed out many sections of road, knocked out power lines and severely damaged housing of all types, he said.

He said the situation on the most populated island, 'Upolu, confirms other gloomy news. Earlier Wednesday, Polynesian Airlines reported that 75 to 80 percent of people were homeless.